Increased visibility

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Raising our profile

As of 2016, SACJ has been added to the Scopus index, making papers easier to find, in line with our policy to raise our profile and to make SACJ papers easily findable. Previous steps include adding DOIs to our papers and being listed in Directory of Open Access Journals; papers in general are easy to find through search engines because of our open access policy.

We will continue to do what we can to raise the profile of SACJ; if authors submit interesting work that attracts the notice of others (as measured by citations), that is the best way to grow our profile. We rely on voluntary work by our editors and reviewers to maintain the quality that makes SACJ the publication of choice for South African computer science and information systems work particularly that which has a local flavour, and we strongly encourage authors from the rest of Africa to submit to us as well.

New numbering

As of this issue, SACJ uses volume and issue numbering. To reflect the fact that 2016 is the 28th year that the journal has been in existence under the current name, this issue is numbered volume 28 number 1. We could have started volume numbers from 38, given that first issue of the journal’s predecessor, Quæstiones Informaticæ, appeared in 1979. However, it is more accurate to number from the date of the current title, even if QI is its logical predecessor – particularly as SACJ started from Number 1. The previous SACJ numbering scheme, with a number only and no volume, was nonstandard and confused referencing systems such as BibTEX.

New editors

I would like to welcome new editors Martin Olivier (Computer Science) and Emma Coleman (Information Systems), and thank outgoing editors Patricia Alexander (Information Systems) and Machanick, P. (2016). Increased visibility [Editorial]. South African Computer Journal 28, vii–viii. http://dx.doi.org/10.18489/sacj.v28i1.402

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Reinhardt Botha (Computer Science). Editing is a difficult task as it requires finding and chasing up reviewers as well as making difficult accept or reject decisions. I thank the entire editorial team, past and present, for their contribution. Without you, SACJ would not be able to continue to be the standard-bearer for quality academic publication in our part of the world.

In this issue

Papers in this issue include one viewpoint article and two research papers.

In “Short-term initiatives for enhancing cyber-safety within South African schools”, Kritzinger investigates the situation regarding cyber-safety awareness in South African schools, and subsequently highlights the need for material and guidance to ensure that school learners and teachers are aware of issues relating to cyber-safety. She proposes the use of posters as an inexpensive short-term initiative to start the process of establishing a national cyber-safety culture among school learners.

Seymour and Serumola employ retroductive analysis to identify the events which lead students to change their major to Information Systems, in “Events that lead university students to change their major to Information Systems: A retroductive South African case”. They find that the initial events prompting students to change major include a loss of passion or difficulty in a current major and enjoying an alternate introductory course, arguing that these findings can be generalised to other majors.

Finally, Rossouw and Basie von Solms, in a viewpoint article, “Publish or Perish – But where?”, provide guidelines on how to build a research profile by appropriate choice of where to publish.

Obituary: Hartmut Ehrig

The Research Group for System Specifications and Formal Methods (SSFM) of the Department of Computer Science, University of Pretoria, pays respect to the scientific achievements of Hartmut Ehrig, Professor of Theoretical Computer Science, Automata Theory and Formal Specifications at the TFS Institute of the Technical University of Berlin (Germany). Born in 1944 during the Second World War, Professor Ehrig recently passed away on 17 March 2016.

With his ground-breaking pioneer-work in the theory of Algebraic Graph Transformation, Hartmut Ehrig became one of the founding fathers of what is nowadays known as “Model-Driven Development” (MDD) in the field of Formal-Methods-supported Software Engineering. The manager of the SSFM research group at the University of Pretoria, Stefan Gruner, who gladly and thankfully spent some time as a young post-doctoral research fellow at Hartmut Ehrig’s TFS Institute around the turn of the millenium sixteen years ago, extends his heart-felt condolences to Hartmut Ehrig’s family, to the academic colleagues at the TU Berlin in Germany, as well as to the world-wide community of Theoretical Computer Scientists and Formal Methods researchers.

May Professor Ehrig rest in peace, unforgotten.

More at http://www.tfs.tu-berlin.de/menue/home/team/ehrig_hartmut_prof/.

– Contributed by Stefan Gruner, University of Pretoria.