

ANNUAL REPORT
of the ACM Digital Library Board
For the Period: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Submitted by Jack Davidson, Digital Library Board Chair

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Members of the Board (List of board members, terms of office; begin with board chair)

- Jack Davidson (Chair), 01-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024
- Phoebe Ayers, 20-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024
- J. Stephen Downie, 26-Aug-2022 – 30-Jun-2025
- Michael Ley, 01-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024
- Michael Nelson, 01-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024
- George Neville-Neil, 05-Jul-2022 – 30-Jun-2025
- Natasha Noy, 05-Jul-2022 – 30-Jun-2025
- Cheri Pancake, 01-April-23- 30-Jun-2026
- Louiqa Raschid, 01-Sep-2021 – 30-June-2024
- Theo Schlossnagle, 19-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024
- Harald Störrle, 24-Aug-2022 – 30-Jun-2025
- Julie Williamson, 20-Jul-2021 – 30-Jun-2024

1.2 Standing Committees (List of committee names, chairs, terms of office)

No standing committees in FY23.

1.3 Ad Hoc Committees (List of committee names, chairs, terms of office)

The ACM Digital Library Board currently does not have any ad hoc committees. Rather the DL Board is organized around projects that are led by DL Board member(s) and additional volunteers. These projects are called “Working Groups.” The working group projects are described in the next section.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY (List of all projects, of the Board or any of its committees, that have been active at any time during the calendar year.)

2.1 Market Research/Product Research and Strategic Plan. We engaged with an organization, Delta Think, to conduct a large-scale survey and a series of in-depth interviews across our user base and beyond. The result of the survey and DL Board discussions were used to produce a draft five-year strategic plan. The product survey was also used to produce personas that represent different types of DL users and establish KPIs to use as the DL is enhanced to meet the needs of the computing community. This plan has been discussed informally with various groups including ACM EC, Publications Board leadership, and ACM Council. The next step is to present the plan to the DL Advisory Board. **Status: Ongoing.**

2.2 Data Quality/Article Types. We are working on a machine learning exercise with the Athena Research Center to identify and correct improperly categorized articles across the DL. The primary goal is to ensure all “research articles” are accurately tagged. In FY23, an additional project was started to assess and address metadata quality. This new project extracted

information from the PDF of articles and compared it to the stored metadata. Any discrepancies were logged for so appropriate changes could be made. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.3 **CACM Web First.** Developed and launched new CACM website to support fast, online dissemination of CACM content. **Status: Completed.**

Work will now begin using the new XML-based workflow for other ACM magazines. The next magazine to transition to the new workflow will be *Queue*. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.4 **Magazine DL Landing Pages.** Transition standalone magazine websites (except for CACM) to new DL Magazine landing pages. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.5 **DL Search.** Conducted an exercise focused on improving the search results produced by the DL. Board members provided examples of searches and the results that illustrated various shortcomings. The results of these examples were provided to Atypon and based on these examples improvements were made to the search algorithms. Initial results indicate that the changes yielded significant improvements. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.6 **Conference Landing Pages.** Improved conference landing page so key conference activities are easy to find. Leads: Phoebe Ayers and Julie Williamson. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.7 **Supplemental Materials.** Raise visibility, improve discoverability, ease of upload, and enhanced metadata. Developed a new application to aid in the upload of supplemental materials. Initial roll out to several conferences—will continue to add additional conferences. Search filters are being updated for better discovery of these categorized supplements. Additional tagging within the article pages using schema.org will also roll into the DL shortly to aid in the external discovery of these supplements. Lead: Natasha Noy. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.8 **Proceedings Production.** Evaluate/improve authoring/conference proceeding volunteer management experience. Template modifications, systems modifications. “Proceeding Summit” held at CHI’23 conference. Extend the model across SIGs. Lead: Julie Williamson. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.9 **ACM COI Service.** Developing an ACM COI service for use by ACM volunteers. Building MVP. Lead: George Neville-Neil. **Status: Ongoing**

- 2.10 **Accessibility.** Improving accessibility in author templates and the DL. A combination of automated tools and interactive user testing with a continuing audit schedule. Lead: Julie Williamson. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.11 **DL Advisory Board.** Define the scope and volunteer commitment. Populate the Advisory Board. Next steps are to present the strategic plan to the Advisory Board. **Status: Completed.**

- 2.12 **Ahead of Print.** Developed for CACM, a new XML first workflow will allow for articles to be made available in the DL well in advance of the printed issue and appear in both PDF and HTML. The workflow will be applied to other magazines in the future. **Status: Complete.**

- 2.13 **Overlay Books.** Expand the DL publishing/collection capabilities to include the ability to present previously published materials along with appropriate annotation and additional new materials along with links back to the original publications. Working with SIGGRAPH on a “Seminal Collection” of papers. **Status: Ongoing.**

- 2.14 **Proceedings Presentation.** Move proceedings to XML storage. Provides viewing on most devices and provides active navigation, hyperlinks, and expanded accessibility. Added feature to produce full volume PDF for ease of online use. **Status: completed.**
- 2.15 **Author and Organization Affiliation:** Improve author name and affiliation workflow using OrgDB. Evaluating alternative solutions which included using ORCID, ROR, and other industry standard identifiers. **Status: Ongoing.**

3. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

We have strived to create a diverse DL Board. As we add new members, we are mindful of enhancing diversity—gender, time in career, ethnicity, geography, career position, etc. The DL Board working group model offers additional opportunities for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our working mode—monthly standup meetings that include all Board member allow all Board members can weigh in on any project. Thus, all Board members are included in the operation of the Board.

4. **STAFFING**

One of the production staff positions has been revamped to focus heavily on quality control. An additional part-time production position has been created and filled. Vendor workloads and procedures have been evaluated and adjusted where necessary. A new database developer was added to the production staff.

5. **PLANS**

- 5.1 Convene DL Advisory Board to discuss five-year strategic plan.
- 5.2 Develop vision and implementation plans for two versions of the DL—one for non-subscribers that provides content and basic service, and a full-function version for subscribers. A key activity is to identify the features included in each version. Another activity is to determine whether to monetize the basic service version by presenting appropriate advertisement content.
- 5.3 Perform a survey of low-usage institutions to better understand how ACM can ensure they continue to subscribe to the Digital Library.
- 5.4 Initiate a project that uses the Collected Algorithms of the ACM to explore the use of software development tools such as git to support communities that are doing active development of software artifacts.’
- 5.5 Collaborate with volunteers to create a workflow to automate processing of artifact badges. Partially complete.
- 5.6 Develop a template and process for managing journal community web pages.
- 5.7 Expose DL statistics Dashboard to DL users.
- 5.8 Begin new project to provide support for exposing ACM content in social media sites such as Reddit, Quora, and Slashdot.