

# The Procedures of PACMPL

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## Description of PACMPL

*Proceedings of the ACM on Programming Languages (PACMPL)* is a Gold Open Access journal publishing research on all aspects of programming languages, from design to implementation and from mathematical formalisms to empirical studies. Each issue of the journal is devoted to a particular subject area within programming languages and will be announced through publicized Calls for Papers. All accepted papers receive two rounds of reviewing and authors can expect initial decisions regarding submissions in under three months. The journal operates in close collaboration with the Special Interest Group on Programming Languages (SIGPLAN) and is committed to making high-quality peer-reviewed scientific research in programming languages free of restrictions on both access and use.

## PACMPL Member Conferences

Currently, PACMPL has five member conferences: Principles of Programming Languages (POPL), International Conference on Functional Programming (ICFP), Object-Oriented Programming Systems, Languages, and Applications (OOPSLA), Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI), and History of Programming Languages (HOPL).

## Issues and Bibliographic References

PACMPL has one issue per year for each conference deadline. For example, POPL currently has one deadline, so there is one POPL issue. OOPSLA currently has two deadlines, so there are two OOPSLA issues. Each issue is consecutively numbered with a volume number and an identifier corresponding to the acronym of the conference. For example, Vol 3 (POPL) and Vol 3 (ICFP) correspond to conferences POPL and ICFP in year 2019.

Currently, PACMPL only publishes issues drawn from its member conferences. However, as PACMPL matures, the Advisory and Editorial Boards will discuss the evolution of the publication process to potentially include issues containing papers from other sources.

## Solicitation of Papers, Presentations, and Travel Support

Each issue in PACMPL has a regular call for papers, typically once per year (currently twice a year for the OOPSLA issues). To be considered for the journal, papers must be submitted by the established deadlines.

Authors of all accepted papers are invited to present their work at the corresponding conference. Authors who need financial assistance for travel to the conferences should apply for a grant from the SIGPLAN Professional Activities Committee (PAC) program.

## Terminology

Journals are viewed differently to conferences, and it is important for the terminology we use to reflect that PACMPL is a journal. To this end, we are careful about terminology.

- POPL 2022 seeks contributions on all aspects of programming languages and programming systems, both theoretical and practical. → PACMPL, Issue POPL 2022 seeks contributions on all aspects of programming languages and programming systems, both theoretical and practical.
- Authors of accepted papers are expected to present their work in the POPL conference in January 2022 → Authors of papers published in PACMPL Issue POPL 2022 will be invited to present their work in the POPL conference in January 2022.
- Program Committee → Review Committee
- External Review Committee → Additional Review Committee
- Program Chair → Associate Editor, Senior Editor, Assistant Editor (see Editorial Board, below)
- Artifact Review Committee (unchanged)

Careful wording is also required for the Editorial Message provided at the start of each volume. The [Editorial Message for POPL 2022](#) can be used as a template.

## Open Access

As a Gold Open Access journal, *PACMPL* is committed to making high-quality peer-reviewed scientific research in programming languages available free of restrictions on both access and (re-)use. The [PACMPL editorial board](#) encourages authors to support open access by licensing their work with the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC-BY\) license](#), which grants readers liberal (re-)use rights. CC-BY is used by [LIPICs](#), [<Programming>](#), and [ETAPS](#), among others. A reasoned argument for CC-BY is given by the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#).

Authors of accepted papers will be required to choose one of the following publication rights:

- Author retains copyright, licenses the work with a [Creative Commons license](#), and grants ACM a non-exclusive permission-to-publish license (*suggested choice of the [PACMPL editorial board](#)*).

- Author retains copyright of the work and grants ACM a non-exclusive permission-to-publish license.
- Author retains copyright of the work and grants ACM an exclusive permission-to-publish license.
- Author transfers copyright of the work to ACM.

For more information, please see [ACM Copyright Policy](#) and [ACM Author Rights](#).

To show support for *PACMPL*'s Gold Open Access policy, authors are requested to pay a deeply discounted Article Processing Charge of 400 USD, made possible by generous financial support from SIGPLAN. In the event that authors are unable to pay this fee, SIGPLAN has agreed to cover those costs to ensure that all articles published in *PACMPL* are Open Access in the [ACM Digital Library](#). *PACMPL* and SIGPLAN continue to explore the best models for funding open access, with a particular focus on sustainability. Many research institutions are members of '[ACM Open](#)' and authors from those institutions will not be asked to pay the article processing charge.

In the past, there was some confusion over this policy. Some authors chose options other than CC-BY because they thought (wrongly) that the 400 USD charge applied to CC-BY but not to other licenses. To lessen confusion, we adopted a policy whereby the E-in-C of *PACMPL* writes to all authors that choose an option other than CC-BY to discuss the choice. Conference Publishing provides a web interface that makes it easy to send such emails.

## Editorial Process

Papers published in *PACMPL* will be invited for presentation at the member conferences. The major characteristics of the editorial process are as follows.

### Timeline

There are fixed deadlines for submissions, reviews, resubmissions, and final decisions. Currently, there are five issues distributed over the year as follows:

Issue Number	Publication Month
POPL	January
OOPSLA1	April
PLDI	June

ICFP	August
OOPSLA2	October

## Reviewing and Selection Process

Two rounds of reviewing contribute to the final selection of papers. The first reviewing round assesses the papers according to the quality criteria used by the journal, and results in the selection of a subset of submissions that are either accepted as-is or are deemed potentially acceptable. All other papers are rejected in the first round. Authors of potentially acceptable papers are requested to improve specific aspects of the research and the paper. Authors are given a period of time to perform the revisions and re-submit the paper. In the second and final reviewing round, the same reviewers assess how the revision requests have been acted upon by the authors. Revisions that fail to adequately address the reviewers' original concerns will lead to the paper's rejection.

All papers accepted for publication have at least three reviews.

Note that while always conforming to the above guidelines, as well as the [editorial policies of PACM](#) in general, review processes of different journal issues may vary. For example, issue editors may or may not employ double-blind reviewing, and they may or may not include an author-response period during the first reviewing round, to give authors a chance to comment on reviews before the initial decision is made. These review-process variations arise from the experience of the community in determining (and experimenting with) what leads to best decisions. We consider this dynamism to be a healthy practice that engages the community in continually seeking to improve its editorial processes. Review-process details are captured in each journal issue's "contract with authors" documents ("Principles of POPL", "Practices of PLDI", "Functioning of ICFP", etc.), which is referenced from the journal's call for papers and in the front-matter of the PACMPL issues.

For accepted papers, the process of publication is managed by Conference Publishing. All papers must adhere to the PACMPL style (which is determined by ACM), but different journal issues may set different page limits.

## Governance

### Advisory Board

The role of the advisory board is to guide and support the work of the editorial board and to provide institutional memory. The advisory board consists of the following members:

- Chair of SIGPLAN
- Vice-Chair of SIGPLAN
- Past Chair of SIGPLAN
- One representative from each of the Member Conferences' Steering Committees

The SIGPLAN representatives serve for three years, the same amount of time as their roles in SIGPLAN. The representatives of the conferences' Steering Committees also serve for three years.

## Editorial Board

The role of the Editorial Board is to run the day-to-day operations of the journal. The editorial board consists of:

- Editor-in-Chief: responsible for making sure the journal information is always up-to-date, for coordination of the Editorial Board, for ensuring that the editors conform to the editorial policies of the PACM series, and for planning longer-term editorial strategies. The Editor-in-Chief works directly with all the editors and advisors for proper operation of the journal, but does not play a direct role in paper selection. The Editor-in-Chief is appointed by the PACM Steering Committee in consultation with the journal's Advisory Board.
- $N$  Associate Editors, where  $N$  is the number of member conferences: responsible for paper reviews and selection. The Associate Editors (typically the Program Chairs of the associated conferences) will be selected by the conferences' Steering Committees.
- $N$  Senior Editors: Associate Editors of the previous year, responsible for supporting the current Associate Editors.
- $N$  Assistant Editors: Associate Editors of the following year, responsible for assisting the Associate Editors.

The Editor-in-Chief serves for a period of three years. All others have a tenure of one year in their roles. Roll-off dates from one role to another are the last days of the conferences.

## Journal Evolution

The journal may add other Programming Languages conferences in the future. HOPL and PLDI were added after PACMPL was first established. These additions must be approved by both the Editorial and the Advisory Boards, as well as ACM's PACM advisory board and ACM's Publication Board. Each added conference will generate a corresponding additional issue of the journal and will participate in the governance of the journal via the addition of senior, associate, and assistant editors, as well as a representative of the Steering Committee in the Advisory Board.

In very special circumstances, the journal may have special issues. Possible situations include the celebration of work from a particularly important member of the research community or a particularly important research topic that is of broad interest to programming languages. Such special issues should be an exception, and they require approval by both the Advisory and the Editorial Boards.