

JACM 1973–1975

RAY MILLER

In 1969, Gerry Salton, the Editor-in-Chief of *JACM* at the time, asked me to become the Area Editor for Theory of Computation. I gladly accepted the honor because, by that time, *JACM* was well known as the premier journal for publishing papers with a theoretical computing flavor. In 1972, I succeeded Gerry as Editor-in-Chief and continued into 1976. Fortunately, Myrtle Kellington was still Executive Editor and her expertise and experience made the EIC job quite enjoyable. She made sure that the publication process continued to move smoothly even as the journal went through some major printing process changes. Finding new Area Editors turned out to be quite easy, as good people readily accepted the positions primarily due, I believe, to the excellent reputation of *JACM*.

ACM was publishing *Communications* and *Surveys* in addition to *JACM*, but this was well before the various *ACM Transactions* were born. Even though other non-ACM publications started to appear, *JACM* continued in its lofty position. It has maintained such a position all these years, even as the *ACM Transactions* emerged, since it publishes papers over the wide and expanding spectrum of areas to which theoretical work on computing has had an influence. Of course, the addition of the *Transactions* has enabled ACM to continue as a leader in the field of technical computing publication.

The early 70s was an exciting time to be Editor-in-Chief of *JACM* since several new areas were just getting started. This was the time when the Complexity of Computation mushroomed as a major area of study for algorithms. Also, various works in parallel computation started to appear even though computing technology had a long way to go before massive parallelism could be realized in practice. Other new areas continue to appear demonstrating the overarching nature of theoretical studies of computing, and thus providing *JACM* new exciting opportunities to publish. Let's hope that the next fifty years of *JACM* will provide an even better demonstration that there is an ever-expanding role for our discipline.

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