Editorial

by Kurt Hornik

Time to say good-bye . . . with the new system of rolling three-year periods of office for the members of the Editorial Board, my term comes to an end on Dec 31, with Doug Bates joining the board in 2003, and Fritz Leisch taking over as Editor-in-Chief.

Having started *R News* from scratch together with Fritz, I am of course very content with what we have achieved thus far. And that does not change when comparing our initial intentions, as stated in the editorial of the first (January 2001) issue of *R News*, to the present state. Both quality and quantity of the material published in the past two years confirm the success of this newsletter in filling the gap between mailing lists and scientific journals. (The first issue also mentions the idea of having a regular column on "Applications". Guess that's what's usually called "work in progress.")

In serving its role as one of the key information resources of the R community, *R News* of course needs to do more that "just" provide news from the most recent R releases and articles introducing packages available from CRAN or other R package repositories—there should be information on books and events related to R, a programmer's niche, a help desk . . . and if possible, on a regular basis. Thus, we are very happy that Uwe Ligges, known to many as a key provider of answers on the r-help mailing list, has agreed to edit a regular "Help Desk" column, starting in this issue with an article on "Automation of Mathematical Annotation in Plots". Welcome aboard, Uwe!

Also in this issue, Angelo Canty continues the series on primers for recommended packages with "Resampling Methods in R: The boot Package". In "Mixing R and LaTeX", Fritz Leisch starts a mini-series on Sweave, an exciting flexible framework for mixing text with R code for automatic document generation. Steffen Lauritzen introduces a new, R-based project on "gRaphical Modeling in R". And of course, there is much more . . .

Best wishes to everyone for 2003.

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