Date: November 26, 2023

Subject: Regarding the position of editor-in-chief of ACM TKDD

Dear TKDD EIC Review Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of the editor-in-chief of ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD). Currently, I hold the position of Chair Professor and Head of AI Thrust at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). My exceptional blend of technical expertise in data mining, knowledge discovery, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), coupled with extensive management experience, positions me as an ideal candidate to support the success and growth of TKDD.

As a Fellow of AAAS and IEEE, my commitment extends beyond cutting-edge research. I have actively contributed to the academic community through my roles as a member of editorial boards for various books and journals. Notably, I served as a co-Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopedia of GIS (Springer 1st edition, 2008 and 2nd edition 2017), which received the prestigious CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of the Year award in 2008. Moreover, I had held positions as an Associate Editor for esteemed publications such as IEEE Transactions on Data and Knowledge Engineering (TKDE) and IEEE Transactions on Big Data (TBD). Currently, I serve as an Associate Editor for ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD) and ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS). Last but not least, I have been actively involved in organizing committees for numerous conferences. This includes serving as a Program Co-Chair for the IDG Track of the 18th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD), a Program Co-Chair for the IEEE 2013 International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM), a General Co-Chair for the IEEE 2015 International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM), and a Program Co-Chair of the Research Track for the 24th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-2018). These experiences demonstrate my dedication to advancing research and fostering collaboration within the academic community.

Challenges and Opportunities

As one of the prestigious publications in the fields of data mining and knowledge discovery, TKDD has attracted a great number of paper submissions, which significantly promote the prosperity of the research in these fields. Particularly, we have witnessed its exemplary advancement with the observation of the growing number of submissions and the ever-increasing citations of the indexed papers. While TKDD has enjoyed great success, it faces the following challenges.

The challenges that TKDD currently faces can be refined as follows:

1. Reviewer Availability: The increasing number of submissions poses a challenge in finding qualified reviewers who can deliver timely and high-quality reviews, especially considering the diverse topics covered by TKDD. Ensuring prompt and insightful feedback for all submitted papers becomes imperative.

2. Emerging Cross-Sector Topics: TKDD covers a broad scope of emerging cross-sector topics, including areas like large language models in the era of data-driven AI research. It is crucial to attract and publish articles in these rapidly evolving fields in a timely manner.

3. Brand Awareness: While TKDD enjoys high visibility in the realms of data mining and knowledge discovery, there is a perceived lack of awareness among the general public. Utilizing social media marketing and promotion becomes essential to raise brand awareness and reach a broader audience.

4. Editorial Board Engagement: TKDD has attracted leading scholars from diverse fields, with a mix of senior and mid-career researchers on the editorial board. Encouraging active and collaborative engagement from these experts in various strategic and editorial aspects of TKDD operations can pose a challenge.

5. Engaging ACM Communities: Building connections with the wider ACM community, especially in terms of attracting high-quality papers from top ACM conferences, is crucial for TKDD's growth and influence. Fostering collaborations and ensuring a strong presence within the ACM network becomes a priority.

In this regard, I would like to contribute my knowledge and efforts to keep the momentum and continue its outstanding development as an Editor-in-Chief.

A Brief Plan for the Publication's Future

If the opportunity comes to me, I have the following plan in my service as the Editor-in-Chief of ACM TKDD. To put it briefly, I will proceed from the following tasks to address the above-mentioned challenges.

To address the challenges mentioned, here are some suggestions on how to tackle them:

1. Reviewer Availability:
   - Expand the pool of potential reviewers by actively reaching out to experts in specific subfields related to the diverse topics covered by TKDD.
   - Recognize and appreciate the efforts of reviewers by acknowledging their contributions and providing incentives such as recognition in the journal.

2. Emerging Cross-Sector Topics:
   - Actively seek submissions from leading researchers and practitioners working in emerging fields by organizing special issues that focus on these topics.
   - Collaborate with relevant conferences and workshops to ensure timely dissemination of research findings in these areas.

3. Brand Awareness:
   - Leverage social media platforms to promote recent publications, highlight impactful research, and engage with the broader community.
   - Collaborate with ACM's marketing and communications teams to maximize outreach efforts and raise awareness about TKDD through ACM's network of members and affiliated organizations.

4. Editorial Board Engagement:
   - Foster a sense of ownership and involvement among editorial board members by regularly communicating strategic goals and seeking their input on important decisions.
   - Encourage collaborative initiatives, such as organizing special issues or theme-based collections, which can help stimulate active participation from board members.

5. Engaging ACM Communities:
   - Establish strong relationships with top ACM conferences by organizing joint events, workshops, or tutorial sessions focused on topics aligned with TKDD's scope.
   - Actively participate in ACM-sponsored activities and conferences to promote TKDD and encourage authors to submit their work to the journal.

By implementing these strategies, TKDD can overcome its challenges and enhance its reputation, visibility, and impact within the academic community and beyond.

Finally, I would like to express my thankfulness to the recruiting committee for considering my application. If I can provide you with any further information on my background and qualifications, please feel free to let me know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hui Xiong, Chair Professor
AAAS Fellow and IEEE Fellow
Associate Vice President
Head, AI Thrust
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)
Email: xionghui@ust.hk