

Dear TKDD Editor-in-Chief Search Committee,

My name is Jiliang Tang. I am a university foundation professor of computer science and engineering at Michigan State University (MSU). I am writing to express my deep passion for data mining and my strong desire to contribute to the continued success of TKDD as its Editor-in-Chief (EiC).

I started participating in the data mining field when I was inspired by Dr. Jiawei Han's data mining book as a Master student in 2008. In the last more than one decade, I had the privilege to be an active participant in this field as a Ph.D. student under Dr. Huan Liu, as a research scientist at Yahoo Labs, and as an educator and a researcher at MSU. Throughout this journey, I have consistently sought ways to enhance the quality and impact of research in data mining. I am currently an associate editor of TKDD where I have witnessed that submissions of TKDD have significantly increased and the impact factor of the journal has also increased. I am also serving as the information director of TKDD. I assist EiC with coordinating authors and associate editors and the review turnaround times have been reduced by at least 30%. Such experience has not only equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the scholarly publishing process but also provided me with unique opportunities to form my vision for the future development of TKDD.

Data has become increasingly crucial to build the next generation of AI systems. As the only field emphasized on data, data mining is playing an essential and unique role in AI from a data perspective. This decides the diverse and interdisciplinary nature of the data mining field. To align with this intrinsic property, I will (1) proactively seek and promote contributions from a broad spectrum of authors and diverse research viewpoints; (2) encourage interdisciplinary submissions and collaborations and (3) ensure that the journal's editorial board reflects the diversity and interdisciplinary nature.

Another feature of the data mining field is dynamic since new data is continuously emerging and new techniques to handle data are also consistently introduced. To address emerging topics or trends in the field, I plan to introduce special issues. These special issues can allow us to (1) focus on an in-depth exploration of a specific topic; (2) maintain our relevance and responsive to the evolving trends and interests; and (3) have the potential to increase the visibility and impact of the journal. On the other hand, I will design strategies to mitigate the potential problems with special issues. For example, to ensure the same level of quality as regular issues, I will (1) establish clear guidelines, (2) engage relevant board members on the selection of guest editors and special issue proposals, and (3) closely collaborate with guest editors on the whole the peer-review process.

As the information director of TKDD, I have the unique opportunity to directly communicate with the authors of TKDD. I have learned two important factors concerning authors including the review turnaround times and the visibility of the journal. To enhance the review turnaround time, the current EiC and I have made successful actions such as setting clear expectations, using automated reminders and monitoring the workload of reviewers and associate editors. I will continue to employ these strategies. Inspired by the best reviewer award widely adopted by conferences including KDD, I could design a similar strategy to incentivize associate editors and reviewers. To advance the visibility of TKDD and articles from TKDD, I will (1) leverage social media platforms to promote our editorial board members and published articles; and (2) potentially establish a blog or podcast showcasing interviews with authors, conversations on contemporary research trends, and perspectives shared by the editorial board.

In addition to TKDD, I have served as associate editors of IEEE TKDE, ACM TOIS, and ACM Books and organizers of many data mining related conferences such as KDD, SDM, ICDM, and WSDM. I am confident that my strategic vision, dedication to excellence, and commitment to advancing the field make me an ideal candidate for the role of Editor-in-Chief. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

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