these counts. Regardless of one's basic opinion of the wisdom of such counting exercises, it is clear that computer scientists in Europe have failed to make the specificity of CS with respect to publications generally understood and accepted. The risk still exists of being evaluated according to criteria poorly adapted to most of the CS discipline, such as the number of publications in *Science* or *Nature*. A first step toward assessing publication activity is to know exactly what to count and the methodological limit of what we can count.

Keynoter Michael Ley, who maintains the DBLP server in Trier (Germany), has a unique perspective on the topic. The DBLP lists CS publications, not citations, and results from an exacting effort to get the data correct through a combination of automatic and manual work. Ley described the difficulties raised by authors whose names appear in different formats (Michael Smith, Mike Smith, M. Smith), and by several authors sharing the same name (to which he applies coauthor analysis algorithms to help sort them), Asian names, and many other issues. He amusingly illustrated the perils of automatic analysis of documents by showing how a well-known citation database attributes articles on computer-aided design to a prolific researcher called "Johan Wolfgang Goethe" (The explanation: articles where the cover page lists John Author1, Jill Author2, Johan Wolfgang Goethe Universität where the last part is simply the authors' affiliation, the Frankfurt university named after the great German poet.) Ley's work is a model of rigor, care, and openness, which one may only wish were followed by all those in charge of counting who publishes what and who cites whom.

Another discussion at the summit was the role of women in CS, and how to draw and retain more of them into the field. Violaine Prince from Montpellier pointed out that women are generalists rather than specialists and that curricula should be adapted accordingly. On the topic of how to attract more students, an interesting example was provided by a few universities whose enrollment has actually been growing, thanks to new programs covering topics such as media informatics. Contrary to possible fears, these are not "soft" programs, but strong CS curricula that simply include a few popular themes, attracting an audience that might otherwise be put off by the (unintended) "nerdy" look and feel of the more traditional programs.

The most important result of the summit was the unanimous view that European computer scientists urgently need an organization with aims and scope similar to those of the CRA, extended—in light of the peculiar situation in Europe—to cover education as well as research. An initiative to start this organization is under way, and should culminate in an official start at the next summit tentatively scheduled for next September in Lyon. Some of the immediate tasks are:

- Starting the ground work: list of institutions, mailing list, and Web site.
- Defining criteria for publication and research evaluation.
- Defining guidelines for CS curricula.
- Proposing strategic directions for CS research in Europe.
- Attracting students to the discipline.

The aim of the association will be to become the recognized voice of the European CS community, not limited to universities, but including research centers and industrial research labs. The momentum created by this inaugural summit should enable us to take the first steps more quickly toward this goal by building on the enormous amount of goodwill and community spirit so apparent during the two days shared by 100 CS department chairs at a foundational event in Zurich.

For more information on the summit, visit se.inf.ethz.ch/events/cs_summit_2005. C

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