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# Editorial Introduction

The GECCO 2007 conference broke several records, in terms of attendance as well as in term of number of submitted papers, even though it took place outside the USA for the first time in its short history.

Similarly, the submission rate of *Evolutionary Computation* has been rising regularly in the past few years, not to mention several Special Issues that are in the pipeline (the next issue for instance will be the *Bridging Theory and Practice* Special Issue, a follow-up to the eponym PPSN workshop. We are maintaining a reasonable average decision delay of slightly above our target 4 months. Moreover, the digitisation of old issues (anterior to 2000) is on-going and should be on-line soon.

So much for the good news . . . unfortunately, and in spite of all the efforts that have been made by our publisher (advertisement, discount to SIGEVO members), whom we want to thank here, the readership of the journal in terms of subscription is still slowly but steadily decreasing – and so is its Impact Factor. And I don't even dare mention the dead-end where the negotiations between MIT Press and the ACM have been sitting for almost 2 years now. And in the mean time, a number of new journals are appearing, either using a different business model, or enjoying a wider dissemination through bundled electronic subscription – or both.

So the question arises whether “small is beautiful” still holds in the present situation – it might be time to consider changing the business model we are using, before it is too late. Candidate models, besides joining the ACM pool, in one way or another, could be

- a sponsored journal, like for instance what the physicists from High Energy Particle Physics are trying to globally achieve with their own journals through the SCOAP3 initiative (sponsors welcome!);
- the full Open Content model, as so successfully demonstrated by the *Journal of Machine Learning Research*;
- the increasingly popular (amongst editors and publishers) “Open Access with paying authors” model – though our Editorial Board does not a priori favour such model, as it can only increase the inequalities among authors from different institutions or countries.

The only thing we are sure of today is that we do not want to give up on the quality of published papers. We want to do what is best to disseminate them widely, while preserving your interests as scientists, both as authors and readers.

Marc Schoenauer  
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