

Editorial

With this first issue of Volume 10 of *Natural Language Engineering* we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the development of the journal, especially over the last year or two, and to look forward to a number of future developments.

The journal continues to go from strength to strength. We continue to get a number of absolutely excellent proposals for special issues. In this volume we hope to have a special issue on Infrastructures and Architectures for Language Engineering (edited by Hamish Cunningham and Donia Scott) and Medical Language Processing (Pierre Ziegenbaum).

As heralded a couple of years ago we will be reducing the proportion of special issues to try to reduce the delays on publication of submitted papers. At present this averages about 20 months from submission and without action would be rising. Of course in this case an average masks many factors: for example the nature and extent of changes requested by reviewers and the difficulty we occasionally have in finding suitable reviewers for highly specialized topics. Occasionally papers are in print in nine months.

On a more positive note, we now are averaging four months to get initial comments and a decision back to authors, and on occasion have succeeded in getting an initial decision to authors in two months.

In the course of the year we have started to ensure that all accepted papers are at least triple reviewed in order to maximize the robustness and rigour of our review processes. Over the last five years about 30% of submitted papers were eventually accepted for publication in *Natural Language Engineering* but this proportion has been declining.

As well as increasing the space for submitted papers, and tightening up our review process, we are also looking at a number of further ways of reducing the time between initial submission and papers appearing in print. In particular we are investigating the possibility of formal preprint publication of papers on the Cambridge University Press web site, and of increasing the frequency of publication of the journal.

However this still means we have excellent proposals for special issues which sometimes take an excessive time to get into print and occasionally have not been able to accommodate. If the present rate of strong special issue proposals is maintained, we will be considering a stronger special issue review process in future.

Another development in the course of the year has been the introduction of an Industry Watch column, which Robert Dale has kindly agreed to write. We hope this short column will provoke interest and debate, as well as providing a new information exchange between industry and academia.

We would like to thank Yoshinori Sagisaka, one of the founding members of the editorial board, who has decided to step down from the board after many years of loyal service.

Next we would like to welcome the new members of the board: Stephen Clark of Edinburgh University; Ido Dagan of Bar Ilan University; Simone Teufel of Cambridge University and Hideki Tanaka of ATR Spoken Language Translation Research Laboratories in Japan. In the course of the year we will be hoping to add a number of other members to the board to further balance our subject expertise and geographical coverage.

Thank you for your continued support of the journal. I (JT) little realised, when I sat down to discuss this idea in Robert Garigliano's office at Durham University twelve or so years ago, the major impact the decision to press ahead with this project would have on my life, nor the success the journal has become.

John Tait
Branimir Boguraev
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