Changes at the *Journal of Algorithms*

Donald E. Knuth, David S. Johnson, and Zvi Galil
Former Co-Editors

For several years we and many of our colleagues have become more and more concerned about the fact that libraries are increasingly unable to afford the prices being charged by commercial publishers of scientific journals. In October of 2003, Don Knuth wrote a long letter to the editorial board of the *Journal of Algorithms*, attempting to explain the current state of affairs as comprehensively and accurately as he could. His letter has now been posted online at

`http://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/joalet.pdf`

and we hope it will be read also by everyone else who is concerned with publication of computer-science journals. In response to Knuth's letter, the entire editorial board ultimately decided to resign from the *Journal of Algorithms* in favor of launching a new journal to be called *ACM Transactions on Algorithms* (see next page).

Elsevier, the publisher of the *Journal of Algorithms*, intends to continue publishing the journal, and papers currently in the pipeline will continue to be handled by the outgoing editors. Here is Elsevier's official statement.

> The Managing Editors and the Publisher announce that the Editorial Board of the Journal of Algorithms has resigned per January 1 of this year because of an unresolved dispute concerning the commercial aspects of scientific publishing. Papers which have been submitted prior to this date will be refereed in the usual way and published in the course of this year and next year. Papers submitted after this date will be forwarded to the new Editorial Board, which will be appointed shortly. It is expected that this transition will not result in any additional publication delay.

A New Journal: *ACM Transactions on Algorithms*

Hal Gabow

On January 21, the ACM Publications Board approved a proposal for a new journal dedicated to Algorithms, *ACM Transactions on Algorithms* (TALG). TALG's editorial board is the editorial board that resigned from the *Journal of Algorithms*. The three Editors of JALG, Zvi Galil, David Johnson and Don Knuth, are members of the new editorial board. I'm very happy to take over from them as Editor-in-Chief of TALG.

At the time of this writing many details of TALG are still in preliminary form, but it is certain that individuals and libraries will be able to subscribe at an attractive price similar to those of other ACM journals. Announcements of when TALG will begin accepting submissions will appear in various places including the ACM website.

Call for NP-Completeness Results

David Johnson

To celebrate the launch of the new *ACM Transactions on Algorithms* I am planning to revive my "NP-Completeness Column," with the first column since 1992 appearing in the inaugural issue of the new journal. This column will survey the most important/interesting NP-hardness results that have appeared in the past 12 years, and I would greatly welcome suggestions as to which results should be included. You can send them to me at `dsj@research.att.com`.