My first year as TSE’s Editor-in-Chief has definitely been an eye-opening experience. The sheer volume of activity was unexpected: I received over 5,000 email messages pertaining to the journal, and had to respond in some way to a significant subset of those. While I may have felt that this was overwhelming at times, I consider it a very good sign. It shows that TSE is healthy, and that the research community’s interest in the journal remains strong. This is also reflected in the submission rate of more than one paper per day. As our field continues to grow and broaden, I expect that this trend will only continue.

At the same time, the growing popularity of software engineering conferences and innovations they have introduced (e.g., review rebuttals, increased paper lengths, movement to online PCs) remain a threat to the long-term health of software engineering journals. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the added threat to TSE in particular resulting from the 12-page limit that was imposed on all IEEE Transactions in 2018. While TSE continues to allow papers of any length, the overlength charges are prohibitive to many researchers and remain hugely unpopular. The resulting backlash has resulted in potential TSE authors sending their papers elsewhere, and highly qualified reviewers refusing to contribute their time to a journal with whose policies they deeply disagree.

I have tried to deal with these issues from the first day I became TSE’s Editor-in-Chief. The policy was announced several weeks before I took over from Matt Dwyer, and came into effect a few weeks later. I believe that it is short-sighted, harmful, and that, in the long run, it will likely have the exact opposite effect of the intended one—revenue generation. While I have advocated for the outright reversal of this policy, I am also soliciting suggestions from members of our community (you!) regarding how to minimize its effects in the meantime. If you have ideas, please feel free to contact me directly.

Despite these difficulties, TSE continues to play a critical role in the software engineering research-publication ecosystem. We are carrying on with several initiatives that were started by previous Editors-in-Chief, such as the very popular “journal-first” program. Several other initiatives (e.g., recognizing TSE’s best papers) are in the works, and I am looking forward to reporting on those in my next editorial.

I am fortunate to have a great team of volunteers to help with TSE’s sizeable workload, and with realizing and improving on the above ideas. In the past year, Betty Cheng has joined John Grundy as TSE’s Associate Editors-in-Chief. Several new Associate Editors have joined as well: Yuriy Brun, Yuanfang Cai, Patrick Eugster, Zhi Jin, Anita Sarma, Willem Visser, and Chao Wang. In addition, 21 new members have joined the Review Board, bringing the current number to 41; the Review Board will reach its intended steady-state size of 60 in 2019. Finally, TSE would not be able to function without the time and effort put in by hundreds of reviewers. I give my heartfelt “thanks” to all of these volunteers as well as the members of the Editorial Board whose terms expired in 2018.

Nenad Medvidovic  
Editor-in-Chief  

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Digital Object Identifier no. 10.1109/TSE.2018.2885501