

International Mathematical Union issues Best Practice document on Journals

At its General Assembly held August 16-17, 2010 in Bangalore, India, the International Mathematical Union (IMU) endorsed a new document giving best practice guidelines for the running of mathematical journals (see <http://www.mathunion.org/fileadmin/CEIC/bestpractice/bpfinal.pdf>). The document deals with the rights and responsibilities of authors, referees, editors and publishers, and makes recommendations for the good running of such journals based on principles of transparency, integrity and professionalism.

The document was written by the IMU Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC) in collaboration with Professor Douglas Arnold (University of Minnesota), President of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, who has recently made a study* of unethical practices such as impact factor manipulation in mathematics. Sir John Ball (University of Oxford), the Chair of CEIC, said *"It is important that everyone involved in the publication process has full information on how papers are handled and on what basis they are accepted or rejected. For example, we are uncomfortable with the routine use of confidential parts of referee reports that are not transmitted to authors."*

The IMU President Professor László Lovász (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest) commented *"Well run journals play a vital role in the scientific process. Although the document is concerned with mathematics journals, we hope that those in other fields will find it interesting and useful."*

Contact details:

Professor László Lovász (tel +36 1381 2183/8083 , email lovasz@cs.elte.hu)

Sir John Ball (tel +44 1865 615110, email ball@maths.ox.ac.uk),

Professor Douglas Arnold (tel +1 612 626-9137, email arnold@umn.edu).

*Integrity Under Attack: The State of Scholarly Publishing

<http://ima.umn.edu/~arnold/siam-columns/integrity-under-attack.pdf>