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Report of the Vice President—Publications

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The publications section of the System Dynamics Society webpage

(<http://www.systemdynamics.org/publications.htm>) continues to grow. Members are encouraged to browse this page for information on publications from the society.

A. Items of interest are covered by the individuals listed below in their separate reports. Please see their individual reports in the Society's "Reports and Discussion" section. In lieu of urls below, please find that email address for each person involved.

1) Publisher of the *System Dynamics Review*, John Wiley & Sons: Graham Russel, Journals Development Editor at grussel@wiley.com (note email address change from last year)

2) Editor of the *System Dynamics Review*: Brian Dangerfield
b.c.dangerfield@salford.ac.uk

4) Web Repository for Models and Other Electronic Venues: Bob Eberlein
bob@vensim.com

5) Newsletters and Additional Society publication venues: Roberta Spencer
system.dynamics@albany.edu

B. Other Projects

This year has seen a variety of projects and issues come to discussion under the general heading of "Publication" for the society. These include:

1) The reconstitution of a Publications Committee for the Society. This meeting will take place during the summer conference in Albuquerque. There has already been much email traffic about the possible scope of this committee. In general, we expect to explore the duties and responsibilities of this committee and then propose these items to the Policy Council. Members, as appointed by Erling Moxnes, SDS president, include George Richardson (chair), Graham Winch, Yaman Barlas, with ex officio members Rogelio Oliva, Brian Dangerfield, Roberta Spencer, David Andersen, and Deborah Andersen. The committee thanks Eric Wolstenholme and Jay Forrester for their participation in spring discussion and their previous service to the committee.

The policies of the Society currently state that “the Publications Committee shall assess the quality, timeliness, distinctiveness and coverage of publications of the Society, its Chapters, and of its web site, with respect to the objectives of the Society and its editorial policies. It shall review the policies and practices of the editors and webmaster and policies prescribed by the Vice President—Publications. It shall recommend to the Council ways of effecting improvements in the publications of the Society and its web site. It shall annually submit to the Council via the Vice President—Publications, a written report on all publications sent to the members or sold to the general public during the previous twelve months.”

- 2) There will be a meeting at the conference of individuals involved in the renegotiation of the contract with Wiley for publication of the society’s journal. The journal contract was last signed in June 2004. We need a new contract this fall (2010 renewal) so the summer conference will allow us a chance to have face-to-face meetings about particular items.
- 3) The society has been invited to announce the conference free of charge at www.webofconferences.org . This website offers to researchers and conference organizers a site devoted to scientific, technical and medial conferences. We will be exploring the viability of using this or other such sites and welcome feedback from members on their experiences with this or other sites.
- 4) We continue to work with chapters on their publication venues and the ways that the society can be of assistance to them. The reconstituted Publications Committee (see the charge above) appears to be the appropriate committee for policy issues.
- 5) Does the Society need a blog in order to publish/publicize its work? RPI is considering starting a blog on its SD site. Do our discussion forum and Wiki already fulfill these publication functions?
- 6) The journal is not presently abstracted by The International Abstracts in Operations Research (published by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies). The VP Publications will be contacting this organization to ascertain if the SDR could be included with the more than 150 journals presently indexed and abstracted.
- 7) This spring there was a lengthy discussion among SD office staff, the VP Electronic Presence and VP Publications about the possibility of a search engine for System Dynamics materials. The bottom line came down to copyright of all materials that might be accessed through a search engine. This will be an ongoing discussion especially in light of possible moves to open source materials and the ease with which individuals can gain access to copyrighted materials.
- 8) The main office has done an excellent job of working with the publisher to change the paper used for covers on the journal. The first change caused rippling of the binding.

We expect that the recent fix in paper and process will again produce high-quality copies of the journal.

- 9) In keeping with the digital availability of the journal (see #7 above) the society had a request to make the Forrester Seminar Series on System Dynamics available to a class through streaming video. The university library would stream the video, password protected, to the 10 students in the class. The library would take down the materials when the course was finished, and this would be specifically for educational purposes. The SD office and the VP Publications approved this request.