

## PREFACE

At the January, 2013 joint meeting of the AMS/MSS in San Diego, California, Klaus Kaiser, Steven G. Krantz, and Elizabeth Loew organized a special session on contemporary issues in mathematical publishing. The sessions were well attended, and the presentations were accompanied by spirited discussions. [We note that Elizabeth Loew did not participate in putting together this volume. Bernd Wegner was not an organizer of the sessions, but he has been involved in other such meetings and he did yeoman service in soliciting papers for and assembling this volume.]

One of the main themes of these events was a consideration of the impact of electronic media on publishing. Clearly publishing is an essential part of what we do. Along with teaching and administrative work, mathematicians prove theorems and publish them. We need to publish in order to establish our scholarly reputations, in order to help develop the subject, and in order to validate and archive what we do. The traditional hard-copy model for publishing has served us well for several centuries. But now the picture has changed dramatically.

Many journals are now available both in hard copy and OnLine. Other journals are electronic only. Questions arise as to how we are going to archive electronic journals, how we are going to maintain scholarly quality, and how we are going to manage work flow. There are also questions about pricing. There are both the Green and Gold models for Open Access journals, and the latter involves an Author Processing Charge (APC) which is often nontrivial (usually in the thousands of dollars). How will such a fee be paid, and who will pay it? We certainly do not want a publishing model in mathematics that will exclude scholars in underdeveloped countries, or scholars who do not have resources at their disposal.

Electronic books also have a significant impact on scholarly publishing. An electronic book is one that can keep evolving and growing, and that can respond to feedback from readers. It is a new and developing technology, and one that promises to enhance our abilities as scholars.

All of these questions were vigorously discussed at our special session. It is safe to say that everyone came away with a clearer sense of where we are and where we may be headed. It is clear that there is still much to learn and much to do. This volume contains contributions from many of the participants, and from other scholars as well. These contributions serve as a record of what we were able

to accomplish at our meeting. We hope that readers will come away with a new understanding of the publishing world that we now live in.

Klaus Kaiser  
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