Editorial

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Dear readers, it is a wonderful honor and a privilege to assume the coordinating editorship of the journal *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification*, following the footsteps of the previous Coordinating Editor Hans-Hermann Bock and working with the other two founding editors of ADAC: Wolfgang Gaul and Akinori Okada, and with the new, very welcome Editor Claus Weihs who joins the board from 2012.

We founded ADAC in 2007, with the idea to foster and support technical and scientific information in the context of Data Analysis, Classification and in general in Multivariate Statistics, by combining different international viewpoints. Our auspices were to have a great resonance by readers and contributors, from all relevant scientific communities, by offering a tool for augmenting their scientific research impact. After five years of activities, thanks to the papers submitted by significant contributors and the appropriate peer review selection, perfectly coordinated by Hans Bock, the journal has quickly increased its scientific influence in the international community, as evidenced by the impact factor obtained, in 2010, just three years after the journal has been created, and despite the high competition generated by numerous new journals, proposed in these last five years from all parts of the world.

For this reason I start this new task and challenge with a positive sensation and great enthusiasm. My major purpose is to continue the work done by Hans in improving the scientific impact of the journal as a premier communication medium in Data Analysis, Classification and Multivariate Statistics, including their applications.

As soon as the journal has grown in size and circulation and has received the impact factor, the number of submitted papers has remarkably increased. To efficiently process this larger flow of manuscripts, in particular by keeping the review time as short as possible, the editorial organization of ADAC will change, at the beginning of 2012, by adopting the Online Manuscript Submission, Review and Tracking System of Springer. The system offers easy and straightforward log-in and submission procedures and supports a wide range of submission file formats: for manuscripts—Word, WordPerfect, RTF, TXT and LaTeX; for figures—TIFF, GIF, JPEG, EPS, PPT, and Postscript, providing automatic conversion of source files in PDF.

To deal with the growing editorial work in ADAC, during the next year, the Editorial Board will be strengthened by appointing new Associate Editors. This is advisable also in order to reflect the increasing and diversifying scientific topics involving papers submitted in the Journal.

ADAC is a tool at the disposal of the readers and contributors, thus I encourage you to submit any type of feedback and suggestions for improvement to the editorial office.

I am also grateful for the supporting team of colleagues and friends who participate in the production of this journal as scientific editors, associate editors and reviewers. My final acknowledgments are due to Hans-Hermann Bock. His keen insight, meticulous expertise and high competence in many fields of Data Analysis and Classification have been fundamental to enhance the quality of the papers published in ADAC. I am sure that many authors are indebted to Hans for the detailed comments received, always given to constructively improve the value of the published papers. He is a wonderful example of scientists who has dedicated much time at disposal of the scientific community and he represents a model of Editor who I really wish to follow. Hans will remain as Editor in the Editorial Board of ADAC to continue to transfer his great experience, I hope for a long time.