Editorial

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Published online: 8 February 2014
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1 Introduction

As our attentive readers may have noticed the journal Archives of Computational Methods in Engineering (ACME) was founded in 1994 and thus this year we celebrate its 20th anniversary. During this period we published 190 articles collected in 20 volumes of 4 issues each. We believe that twenty years after the Journal's creation, our vision to provide the readership with a new, authoritative and independent source of scientific information given in a unique format of state-of-the-art review papers has become reality. The published output reflects the breadth of ACME remit, which covers the entire range of research and advanced practice in computational engineering, with particular emphasis on mechanics and its related areas. The Journal covers diverse issues related to modelling, solution techniques and applications of computational methods in such areas as liquid and gas dynamics, solid and structural mechanics, bio-mechanics, multi-body system dynamics, stochastic processes, transport phenomena, heat transfer, coupled problems, control and optimization, computer graphics, CAD/CAM, etc. Variational formulations and numerical algorithms related to the implementation of the finite and boundary element methods, finite difference and finite volume methods and other basic computational methodologies have been the core areas covered.

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The articles are not mere literature surveys; a critical exposition of the topic in its full complexity has always been emphasized by the editors and attempted by the authors. We are particularly pleased that many of the articles have been co-authored by combinations of beginning and senior scientists, the papers quite often being based upon the PhD theses of the former, under the auspices of the latter, and selected annually from the best theses in their countries. In this way ACME has also become an instrument for promoting the most able young researchers entering their academic and professional careers.

As we go forward, it is worthwhile to bear in mind what it is we always wanted to achieve with these Archives. We believe that readers expect high-quality papers, within the various categories covered by the Journal, that are both of relevance and interest to those in the field of computational engineering; the articles should inform and educate, leading to a higher standard within the profession. When we look back at our first 20 years we believe to have managed to lay a solid foundation for this special state-of-the-art review format of a journal, to have published a number of high quality papers, and to have made a noticeable impact upon the whole computational engineering community through the journal. We dare to say this also because of the rising impact factor of ACME which now places the Archives among the most cited journals in the whole field of computational science and engineering.

We acknowledge that scientific journals have changed dramatically in the relatively short period since we assumed the positions of the editors of ACME in 1994. Electronic publishing has had a marked impact upon the way papers are processed and made available to the scientific community. Undoubtedly, this has allowed information to be much more easily accessed via the web, and this Journal's website is a clear demonstration of just how simple it is to

browse and search for articles. Springer, our distinguished publisher, offers an open access program called Open Choice. It allows authors to decide how their articles are published. When you, as an author, choose the open access format you may easily comply with ever more popular open access schemes, while, as a reader, you benefit from having articles freely available online, available for immediate storing in any repository.

We observe with the utmost satisfaction that our Journal is now widely referenced in all leading bibliographic databases, including Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, SCOPUS, Zentralblatt Math, Google Scholar, EBSCO, ProQuest, Academic OneFile, Current Contents/Engineering, Computing and Technology, EI-Compendex, Expanded Academic, ICYT, Index to Scientific Reviews, Mathematical Reviews, OCLC, Referativnyi Zhurnal, SCImago, STMA-Z and Summon by Serial Solutions.

Finally, a word of most deserved acknowledgment. Without the efforts of the world-wide respected members of the Editorial Board, distinguished authors from across the world and the support of our dedicated staff at CIMNE and colleagues at Springer, ACME would never have achieved its present status as a valuable and reliable information source in such a fast growing scientific discipline. For this, we would like to thank all of those who have so successfully collaborated with us during the past two decades.

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