University of Groningen

Editorial from Hans Wortmann

Wortmann, Johan Hans; Jagdev, Harinder (Hari) Singh

Published in:
Computers in Industry

DOI:
[10.1016/j.compind.2018.01.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compind.2018.01.008)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Wortmann, J. H., & Jagdev, H. S. (2018). Editorial from Hans Wortmann. *Computers in Industry*, 95, 113-114. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compind.2018.01.008>

Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

The publication may also be distributed here under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license. More information can be found on the University of Groningen website: <https://www.rug.nl/library/open-access/self-archiving-pure/taverne-amendment>.

Take-down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

Downloaded from the University of Groningen/UMCG research database (Pure): <http://www.rug.nl/research/portal>. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to 10 maximum.

Editorial from Hans Wortmann

A new editor-in-chief of Computers in Industry

Brief History of Computers in Industry:

About 24 years ago, in 1993, I was asked by Elsevier to become the new Editor-in-Chief of Computers in Industry. In those days, no rules were in place regarding the termination of such an appointment. I was the successor of a generation of founders, such as the late Joe Hatvany, Jacob Vlietsta and Gloria Karlmark, who wanted to establish an applied, interdisciplinary academic journal. This has remained the hallmark of the journal, although many choices regarding focus had to be made over the years. Colin Moodie was willing to help as co-editor in the first years. He also played a role in getting a seminal special issue published on enterprise architectures.

Soon, Hari Jagdev offered his services to help me with the editorial work. In the beginning this help had to do with finding reviewers and helping authors to write proper English. This role evolved into more editorial tasks that also entailed travelling to Eindhoven on regular basis. Accordingly, he was appointed as editor in 1997. We relied also on assistants such as Rob de Graaf, Remco Helms and Frans Mouws to manage the paper flow, and they also contributed to development of relationships with people who are still active as reviewers or board members. Recall that before the turn of the century, papers were still submitted on paper and sent to reviewers by paper mail. Unbelievable!

A new period emerged after the turn of the century, when papers gradually could be handled electronically. Around this period, I left Eindhoven to become a full professor in Groningen. The editorial office was staffed by Hans van Uitert between 2003 and 2010, and subsequently Irene Ravenhorst took this role. Hari Jagdev elected to take early retirement from Manchester but remained active as professor in Galway and visiting professor in Groningen. The cooperation between Hari Jagdev and myself became more and more close, working efficiently in weekly calls and monthly visits. This was formalized in 2010 by assigning the title of Editor-in-Chief to us both.

In the early years of 2000 we felt the need to attract new editorial board members for new fields. Some board members were so often asked to help the editors with special requests that we decided to create the role of associate editor. These associate editors took full responsibility for review of papers assigned to them, although the ultimate decisions remained with the editor-in-chief. Some of them (Jerry Fuh for Mechanical Engineering, Paul Valckenaers for Holonic Systems, Wil van der Aalst for business process management, and Francois Vernadat for Enterprise Architectures) served the journal in this role from the early years of 2000, others such as Turkey Dereli for Artificial Intelligence stepped in later or quite recently (Ashwin Ittoo for Natural Language Processing and Melvyn Smith for Machine Vision). We are extremely grateful for their help. Obviously, we also thank members of the first community who are still active as reviewers

or board members (e.g. Peter Bernus, Guiseppe Catania) deserve our gratitude. Last but not least, our Elsevier officers have been of great help over the years.

Why did we stay in charge for many decades? Because, despite hard work, it gives fun and meaning in life – and in our case deep friendship. Moreover, it is an excellent way to stay aware of what is going in our world. However, our role as editors-in-chief cannot be continued forever, and we decided together with Elsevier to step down at the end of this year. We are extremely lucky to have found a successor in Bernard Grabot. We worked with him in our calls and meetings over the last year and we feel that we developed a new friendship with him. We will do whatever we can to help Bernard to take over the journal and we are confident that the journal is in excellent hands. For some months, the editorial office remains in the good hands of Irene Ravenhorst, to facilitate smooth transition.

Hans Wortmann

Some personal reflections:

Dear reader,

I would like to add some personal words and reflection. First of all, I want to thank many friends and also many people which I never met, who helped the journal as authors or reviewers. Second, I would like to express my gratitude to many special-issue editors and members of the editorial board who were active in their field and contributed to the journal.

Also, the members of the editorial offices have to be mentioned here once again. Many people at Elsevier (too many to list), and my assistants Rob de Graaf, Remko Helms, Frans Mouws during my period in Eindhoven, and Hans van Uitert and Irene Ravenhorst during my time in Groningen.

A special thank has to go to the associate editors, who were always present to help us in case of difficult papers or decisions and who acted like wise and reliable friends: Wil van der Aalst, Turkey Dereli, Jerry Fuh, Paul Vackenaers, Francois Vernadat and more recently Melvyn Smith and Ashwin Ittoo.

However, Harinder Jagdev deserves most of my gratitude, because he was always prepared to help us out of difficult situations with papers, combining knowledge on the subject matter with wisdom on proper behaviour in human relations. I admire his mastery of English. I will miss our weekly calls in the weekend or on Monday which energized me for the remainder of the week.

After so many years, it is difficult to say farewell to the journal. We are extremely happy that we can hand over the journal to Bernard Grabot. We worked earlier with Bernard as a guest editor and board member, but we really became friends during the last year in our weekly calls. If I had known that he is such an excellent editor-in-chief, I would have asked him for the job much earlier!

I am confident that the journal will continue with its mission as an applied academic journal to the benefit of our field.

Johan (“Hans”) C. Wortmann

Dear reader: This is perhaps my last formal opportunity to put a few of my feelings on the record. So, please bear with me.

As one approaches the twilight of one's professional career, it is only natural to reflect on the key milestones and people encountered along the journey.

Chasing titles, research funding and teaching have been fun. But now they occupy little collective memory – because, in the grand scheme of life, they mean so little now. It is the people I have met over the years that inhabit most of my sentiments and reflections. Along this eventful journey, I met

some brilliant students and amazing academic colleagues. Among the academic colleagues, two stand out well above the rest and they deserve special mention. Meeting and working with them have been the highlight of my professional career. Indeed, it has been an honour knowing these two gentlemen:

- Hans Wortmann. Despite my formal positions in Computers in Industry, dear reader, I want to set the record straight: It is primarily Hans whose vision and foresight that has brought this journal to its current level of recognition. Even at best of times, my contribution has been marginal. I have merely basked in the reflected glory. Hans: there are not many like you. Thank you for the beautiful journey.
- Jim Browne. Jim was my PhD research colleague in late Seventies. Since then, we have collaborated in numerous projects. Jim has been much more than a professional colleague. He has been and will always be a very dear friend.

I will be failing in my responsibilities if I do not mention many authors and reviewers of Computers in Industry. You guys possess brilliant minds and I have learnt a lot from you. I have not met most of you. But your names are etched on the back of my hands – as if I have known you all my life.

Now, all that is left for me is to wish you – dear reader – the very best in life.

Sat Sri Akal.
Harinder (“Hari”) Singh Jagdev