

## Editorial

There has been a lively discussion in the mail list of the Brazilian Computer Society about an alleged “reviewer-author ring”. According to the initiator e-mail, there are groups of authors that come together to assure that their papers are accepted at conferences.

According to the e-mail author, the scientists become reviewers at conferences and bid to review their co-conspirators papers. Then, they recommend enthusiastically their peers’ papers and since they perform this mutually, they assure that all their papers get accepted and become winners at the numerology game into which Science has metamorphosed.

We cannot stress enough how much this attitude bothers us, as fellow publishers, authors and scientists. We strive to be honest and punctilious and expect the same type of behavior from our colleagues.

Nevertheless, our goal in this editorial is not to preach or to assume a holier-than-thou attitude. We would like only to explain how such a ring would not become successful in this journal (and neither in any other journal edited at the Salesian College of Macaé).

Here, reviewers do not choose the papers they will review. They are invited based on their expertise and also on an extensive background check that is performed by our editors, without any external interference.

This check starts with the authors. They give us their full names and affiliations. In the few cases where the names are common enough, authors were asked the address of their Lattes resume or an equivalent document.

We then choose a large group of possible reviewers and check in their resume if they had any previous interaction with any of the submitting authors. In most cases, the mere fact of having worked at the same institution at the same time when an author was working or studying there was reason enough to veto a reviewer. Exceptions were made only for those very specific areas where there is a restricted universe of reviewers – but even in this case, a history of co-working was enough to deny an invitation to the reviewer.

We have our share of repeating authors and of reviewers that become authors, but we take these occurrences as measures of quality, for it is the transparency and the quality of the process that entices them to submit new work. We have never detected a surge of papers from a restricted group of authors, what indicates that our process to prevent this kind of collusion has been successful so far.

Given those facts, I can tell you that we have succeeded in creating a very good issue, with high quality papers that offer a lot to our interested read.

We strove, as always to create a product that will leave the halls of academia and serve as means to communicate good science to society at large. All the papers published in this issue were written in a clear style (as far as the scientific style goes) and can be used as reference to students of all levels. There are some that cross the barrier and may even be interesting for the public at large, for their application is direct and done on major issues for society (such as TV series).

Hence, we hope that you will appreciate this issue and that we can continue being a vehicle for scientific communication and also a tool for the improvement of Science (with capital “S”) both in Brazil and in all the world. This is the mission of the Salesian order and therefore, the mission of our journal as well.

  
Editor in chief