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Editorial

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The 4th International Digital Curation Conference was held in Edinburgh over December 1-3, 2008, with the title "Radical Sharing: Transforming Science?". The Programme and many of the presentations are available from the DCC Web site¹ and many of the peer-reviewed papers presented on the second day of the Conference are included in this issue of the *IJDC*.

The closing speech at the conference was given by Prof. Malcolm Atkinson, Director of the National e-Science Institute and e-Science Envoy. I am extremely pleased that he has agreed to reflect further on his remarks in a guest editorial to this issue.

I was also very pleased that the paper selected as Best Paper for the Conference (chosen from the 18 accepted papers by my co-chairs plus the previous co-chair) was by my UKOLN colleagues Manjula Patel and Alex Ball. Papers in this issue are, as usual, presented in alphabetical order of first author surname, so you will not find this paper taking an especially prominent position, but it is very much worth a read.

However, the same could be said of all the papers presented in this and subsequent issues. Too many to comment on individually, they are a very broad mix that we had trouble fitting into the four themed sessions available to us. I commend them to you as representative of emerging thinking across a wide landscape of digital curation and preservation.

Looking to the future, we have started discussions with a couple of other conferences of relevance to digital curation, to see whether their better papers might also be presented in the *IJDC*, either as peer-reviewed papers or general articles. In order to achieve this, we had to clarify our section policies a little, and I am grateful to those members of the Editorial Board who responded to a short consultation on the subject earlier this year. One cannot obtain complete consensus on such things, so I have to thank my colleagues for their kind advice, and take full responsibility for the resulting policies².

¹ 4th International Digital Curation Conference, "Radical Sharing: Transforming Science?" Programme <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2008/programme/>

² *IJDC* Editorial Guidelines <http://www.ijdc.net/index.php/ijdc/about/editorialPolicies#custom1>

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Despite our pragmatic approach of sourcing papers from relevant conferences, it is important to build up a stream of separately contributed papers, and I do urge those readers who are involved in digital curation endeavours to write up their work and submit it, either for peer review or as a general article.