Foreword

This volume of *Olympiads in Informatics* marks the journal's first lustrum – five years of research and reports on topics of interest to national and international informatics olympiads and contests. Pedagogical, sociological and technological. Each volume represents a year's work by the authors, reviewers and editors – a lustrum's work published in an olympiad of time. A lustrum was also the period in Ancient Rome when a census was taken of the populace and a ritual cleansing of the state performed. A time for looking at what had gone on before and what would be changing for the future.

In the introduction to the first volume we wrote "*. . . we communicate during . . . national and international events, but too frequently these are conversations between small groups, if not individuals, and often such conversations are piecemeal and quickly forgotten . . . We hope that this [journal] will be a benefit, not just to the IOI community, but to the wider community of educators in our field*." Have we been a success? Certainly within the IOI community we now have a published body of literature (over 75 papers) covering a wide range of national and international issues connected with contests in informatics and computer science education research.

Recognition outside the community has perhaps been slower in coming – most papers are primarily authored by those within it – but gradually we are appearing in scientific databases and being referenced externally. Beginning with this volume, papers will be indexed in EBSCO and CEEOL.

The editorial board is acutely aware that to attract good papers, authors need to know that journal is academically recognised, yet at the same time is accreditation requires a journal of good research papers. We are all fortunate that we have academics within our community who are willing to submit high quality material and the editorial board continues to actively discuss and pursue means of moving the journal up through the journal rankings.

When we started the journal and associated conference we had originally intended to have a main topic each year. Firstly we focused on the experiences of running national olympiads. In our second year training and tasks were the focus. For the last few years we have not had a main topic for the year. Issues of national olympiads, training and tasks have continued strongly over those years, along with papers on the technologies that underlie our events and, more generally, teaching and curricula across the globe.

Our shared experiences in running national olympiads continue to be of interest and we have moved away from reports primarily about the structure of such contests. National reports continue however to be of interest – our problems are common problems and numerous papers have bemoaned, for example, the lack of state teaching for informatics.

The format for the journal has undergone some changes for this year's volume; our lustrum if you will. We feel it is important that serious research forms the foundation of

the journal and such papers form the primary section of the journal. We also understand the need for continuing to share our national experiences, potentially of less interest to those outside the community, so have introduced a country reports section. Finally, this volume presents some book or task solution reviews which we hope will be of interest to our readership. We would like to encourage to write short comments, opinions and challenges – it will be useful for everybody within community.

As always thanks are due to all those who have assisted with the current volume – authors, reviewers and editors. A lot of work goes, not only to the writing of the papers, but to an extended period of review and correction and, in several cases, translation. Peer reviewing all of the papers takes a significant amount of time and work and special thanks should be given to those otherwise unsung reviewing heroes: Ian W. Atha, Giorgio Casadei, Sébastien Combéfis, Gordon V. Cormack, Hugo Duenas, Walter Erquínigo, Gerald Futschek, Sari Haj Hussein, Rob Kolstad, Ville Leppänen, Marcin Kubica, Krassimir Manev, Timo Poranen, Rhein Prank, Miguel Revilla, Peter Taylor, Troy Vasiga, Willem van der Vegt, Tom Verhoeff and Peter Walker.

Last, but by no means least, particular thanks are due to the organisational committee for IOI'2011 in Thailand without whose assistance we would be unable to hold the conference. Their assistance, during what is an already busy period, is gratefully received.

<div align="right">Editors</div>