

# Editorial: State of the Transactions

Philip S. Yu

IT is my great pleasure to announce that *IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering* will be changing from bimonthly to monthly status in 2004. In 2003, we published a total of 117 papers, which is 20 more papers than the total for 2002. In 2004, the journal's page budget will be increased from 1,560 to 1,648 pages as the publication frequency increases.

Various efforts have been made to make publications more timely such as reducing the submission-to-publication time. We addressed the backlog issue with preprints, temporarily decreased the number of special issues, and substantially increased the page budget in the last two years. In 2004, each issue will be available online as preprints (two months before the issue mails from the printer) so that readers have access to the material sooner. The enforcement of submission guidelines has improved quality and concise submissions have allowed us to publish more papers per issue. We are also publishing appendices as online supplemental material, when appropriate, to accommodate page limitations. Furthermore, the peer review process has been improved with the move to Manuscript Central, which provides much better tracking of the paper.

To provide timely coverage on emerging research topics, we have two special issues/sections coming up in 2004. These are Mining and Searching the Web (in this issue) and Peer-to-Peer Database Management (May).

Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing manuscript assistant Anna Kim for her dedicated work on *TKDE* and wish her luck on her new endeavors.

Philip S. Yu  
*Editor-in-Chief*

