EDITORIAL

2020 closure, reviewers' gratitude, and improved review process transparency

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How is it possible to write a closure to a year, in the midst of a pandemic that still dominates our life? We start with the dry facts.

Over the last year, the number of submissions to Research in Engineering Design dropped by several percent. We published 23 papers, 15% less than the year before. We definitely need to attract more quality submissions and make sure we reduce the review time to do it. One way that will help us monitor the review process better and present it transparently to authors is to incorporate new notifications to editors and authors about the progress of reviewing a paper including reviewers' assignments, reviewers' submission of reviews, etc.

None of this would have been possible without the extended community supporting the journal: the authors that trust the results of their research with the journal team, the area editors and the editorial board members, and the many dedicated reviewers. In a year challenged by a global pandemic, where many of us had to drastically change the way we teach and work, all of us were affected: those that conduct research and report the results of their research, those that manage the review of papers, those who review them, as well as the publisher's team. None of the tasks we did this year was the same as in the past.

I wish all of us good health and safe journey through this time and would like, especially, to extend my deep gratitude to the numerous reviewers who contributed their efforts to maintain and improve the quality of the journal. The reviewers, outside the editorial board, who completed a review this year, are:

Ivo Adan	Steve Culley	Katja Holtta-Otto
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