Our New Financial Plan– Again

The TC on Data Engineering does not generate enough revenue to adequately fund the Bulletin. As TC Chair Betty Salzberg explained it in the June issue, *"we will no longer be automatically mailing out paper copies of the Bulletin to all members of the TC. This will cut down on the expenses of the TC without, we hope, causing undue inconvenience to our members, most of whom will get their copies of the Bulletin through the Bulletin web page."* This information is included in the Bulletin, as hardcopy distribution is our only sure way to reach all TC members. If you are unable to access the Bulletin via our web site and want to continue receiving it, you *must* contact Tracy Woods at the IEEE Computer Society now. The December 1998 issue is the last issue that will be sent in hardcopy to all members.

Changes to the Bulletin Web Site

The Bulletin web site has been "dressed up" a bit. Web pages are now in "vibrant" colors. But more importantly, there are two additions to the content available on the site. All issues are available in PDF format as well as in postscript. Further, begining with the March 1998 issue, individual articles of the issue are available as separate postscript files. I invite you to explore the redesigned web site and to send me your comments and suggestions.

This Issue

Database interoperability is an old subject. And while this area has not attracted much research attention over the past several years, interoperability is an area that continues to be very important in the real world of heterogenous database systems and diverse information repositories. Interoperability is frequently the way that we deal with legacy systems. So this subject will retain its importance for as far as any of us can forsee. Donald Kossman has put together an issue that includes articles from both researchers and commercial vendors. Thus, the issue provides a broad view of where we are today, and where we might be going. I thank Donald for his hard work in bringing the issue to fruition.