

# Practices of PLDI

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## Goal

Our goal is to create a contract between PLDI organizers and the broader PLDI community that defines essential organizational and reviewing policies. We wish to establish clear expectations for authors while allowing plenty of leeway for organizers to innovate. We anticipate that the contract will change over time, but when it does, we'll inform the community and provide a justification for the change.

The remainder of this document is organized topically. Each topic has two subsections: *Prescriptions* and *Suggestions*. *Prescriptions* are firm policies; we expect that the organizers for each incarnation of PLDI will adhere to the policies. In cases where the organizers feel an exception or change is warranted, they must first consult with the SC. *Suggestions* are best practices that we expect organizers to strongly consider.

## Definitions

*CFP*: Call for papers

*COI*: Conflict of interest

*DBR*: Double-blind reviewing

*EC*: SIGPLAN Executive Committee

*OC*: Organizing Committee

*PC*: Program Committee

*SC*: Steering Committee

*PCC*: Program Committee Chair

*GC*: General Chair

*SIGPLAN*: ACM Special Interest Group on Programming Languages

*SIGPLAN VC*: SIGPLAN Executive Committee Vice Chair

# Topics

## Managing Change

This topic addresses the meta-policy of how the SC manages changes in policy.

## Communication

### *Prescriptions*

Pending changes should be clearly communicated to the community in advance. Input from the community about all significant changes in policy should be sought at the open meeting at the previous conference (i.e., five months before the submission deadline) and/or, as appropriate, via electronic means.

## Surveys

### *Suggestions*

Surveys of authors, reviewers and attendees are a good mechanism for gathering community feedback. Careful alignment of survey questions from year to year and with those from other SIGPLAN conferences may allow meaningful comparisons to be drawn longitudinally and among the conferences.

## Conference Organization

### Steering Committee Composition

#### *Prescriptions*

The SC for the period from PLDI  $X$  to PLDI  $X+1$  consists of:

- The current SIGPLAN chair and vice-chair
- The GC and PCC for PLDI  $X-2$ ,  $X-1$ , and  $X$
- The outgoing Chair of the SC, for one year past the end of his or her term as Chair.
- Up to three "members at large", serving three year terms. Each year, one member at large will be replaced with a new member, selected by the Steering Committee by consensus with no explicit nays.

In addition to the above formal members, the GC and PCC for future PLDIs are typically invited to participate in most SC discussions. The SC Chair is elected by the SC from among the members of the committee to serve a three-year term. The outgoing chair serves an additional year on the committee past his or her term as chair to provide institutional memory. The constitution of the SC changes every year on July 1.

## **Selection of Organizing Committee**

### *Prescriptions*

The GC and PCC for year  $X+3$  are selected by the SC for year  $X$  to  $X+1$ , subject to the approval of the EC. The GC and PCC select other members of the OC.

### *Suggestions*

To provide continuity, each OC position (Student Research Competition, Sponsorship, Workshops and Tutorials, etc) is encouraged to be co-chaired, with co-chairs holding staggered two year terms, in which each year only one of the co-chairs is replaced. OC members can suggest their own successors, in consultation with the SC. The GC may appoint other members of the OC.

## **Conference Venue**

### *Prescriptions*

The conference venue is chosen by the GC, in consultation with the SC. We strive to identify venues that reflect the diversity of the community.

### *Suggestions*

In recent years, PLDI has rotated between the East Coast of North America, the West Coast of North America, and Europe. The instance of PLDI in China went well and PLDI may rotate to other locations in Asia in the future. Some flexibility in location choice is desirable, since we may not get the most attractive hotel bid in our ideal city.

## **Program Committee Composition**

### *Prescriptions*

The PC is selected by the PCC in consultation with the GC and the SC. The composition of the PC is subject to approval by the SIGPLAN VC.

Topical, personal, and institutional diversity is critical to the long term vitality of PLDI. In general, PLDI adheres to the SIGPLAN Diversity Policy. Some particulars:

- The group consisting of the PC plus the GC and PCC should have no more than 10% of its members from any single institution, except in cases where the PCC makes a compelling case to the SC and EC that there is a reason to deviate (e.g., to ensure an adequate coverage of expertise). The definition of "institution" has been the topic of much debate. When in doubt, use the broadest definition for which conflicts can reasonably be said to exist (e.g., Microsoft Research Redmond and Microsoft Research Bangalore are said to be the same institution because publishing success at the former boosts the reputation of the latter).
- The PCC should strive to ensure that PC members do not serve on the PC too often. As the PC size has been rapidly increasing, the SC is currently evaluating what constitutes "too often," and will provide a prescription for this in 2022.

- The PC should aim to achieve a roughly uniform distribution of seniority (from junior to senior).
- The PCC should strive to avoid the appearance of favoring current and former students, postdocs, colleagues, or collaborators for membership on the PC or ERC.
- The size of the PC should be such that, given the expected number of submissions, each PC member will review 18-25 papers.
- The same diversity criteria listed above should apply to the ERC, scaled to the size of the ERC.

### *Suggestions*

- The PCC of year X+1 can be invited to serve on the PC (with a lighter reviewing load) for year X as soon as he or she is selected.
- The PCC should strive to avoid selecting PC members that collaborate regularly with each other or with the PCC, or PC members from the same institution in the exact same area.
- PC Chairs are encouraged to include deserving young researchers who have not yet had the opportunity to serve on a PC. The PC-Miner tool has been used to identify such researchers: <http://www.franktip.org/pcminer.html>.
- PC Chairs are encouraged to consider the *submission* profile of previous years when assessing the coverage and diversity of their committees. Focusing only on the *accepted* publication profile of previous years may skew the PLDI profile.

## **Timeline**

### *Prescriptions*

Deadlines should be advertised as a fixed date anywhere on earth (AOE).

### *Suggestions*

- June, X-24 months: GC selection
- October, X-20 months: PCC selection
- January, X-17 months: Submit candidate PC and ERC to SIGPLAN VC and PLDI SC
- March, X-15 months: Finalize PC
- June, X-12 months: Publish PC and CFP
- November, X-7 months: Submission deadline
- December, X-6 months: Phase 1 Author Response Period
- December, X-6 months: Phase 1 Author notification
- January, X-5 months: Author Response Period
- January, X-5 months: Author notification
- March, X-3 months: Camera ready deadline

In the past it has been customary to identify an *abstract deadline* one week ahead of the paper deadline. The abstract deadline has been deprecated as it does not assist authors or PCC.

The PC chair is encouraged to synchronize, to the extent it is possible, submission and notification

deadlines with related conferences (e.g. ASPLOS).

Late submissions and requests for changes are typically denied; exceptions can be made in special cases in consultation with the SC Chair.

## **Paper Format Requirements**

### **Paper Format and Length**

#### *Prescription*

Papers should follow the standard two-column ACM proceedings style in 9-point font and be 12 pages, *exclusive* of the bibliography. The bibliography is excluded from the page count to encourage good citation practices and discourage illegible bibliographies.

#### *Suggestion*

The PCC can use of the format checker, banal, that comes with HotCRP to check for formatting compliance. This tool also allows authors to check compliance before the deadline.

### **Citation Style**

#### *Prescription*

PLDI will retain the numeric style ('[42]') which is preferred by the community.

## **Review Process**

### **Assignment of Reviews**

#### *Suggestions*

- The bidding process should ensure that *preference* and *expertise* are not conflated; when they are, some of the most expert reviewers are likely to be missed.
- PC Chairs are encouraged to enlist the help of a small number of trusted people with expertise across SIGPLAN during the review assignment process. Suitable people may include the GC, past PCCs of related conferences, or experts within major sub-fields.
- Suggestions for reviewers should be solicited from each paper's guardian.

### **Author Anonymity**

#### *Prescriptions*

PLDI is committed to use of double-blind reviewing. The primary goal of DBR is to *help PC members review papers with minimal bias*. The process should be such that authors are able to withhold their identity, and reviewers are able to avoid learning their identity:

1. Submissions should not have author names and references to previous work must be in the third person.
2. Authors are not required to "hide" their submissions: they can put them on web pages and

give talks about them.

3. Reviewers should notify the PCC if anonymity is an obstacle to sound and objective reviewing of a paper.
4. Author identities should not be revealed before the conclusion of the PC meeting (blind-till-accept).

Given the use of DBR, the PCC must vet any external reviewers suggested by a PC member.

### *Suggestions*

Provision (2) above is intended to prevent DBR from inhibiting normal dissemination of scientific ideas. Authors should not, however, take it as a license to explicitly lobby the PC or likely reviewers on behalf of their work. While we will not attempt to codify or police such behavior, PC chairs may wish to remind authors of their obligation to live up to the spirit as well as the letter of DBR.

## **Reviewer Anonymity**

Some reviewers have argued that by signing their reviews they increase transparency. Jean Camp says: *'[Signing reviews] has been perceived as bullying by the recipients, "Disagree if you are (wo)man enough." It shuts down discourse rather than opening it. It is placed in a moment of extreme power difference, of researcher and reviewer, with no chance of the reviewed of changing the outcome.'* The author response mechanism and the fact that reviewers' identities are transparent to other committee members provide a sufficient accountability mechanism.

### *Prescription*

Reviews should not be signed.

## **Guardians**

A guardian is a PC member assigned responsibility for ensuring that a paper is carefully and fairly assessed. Concretely, a guardian's role may include:

- Assisting the PCC in identifying gaps in reviewer expertise.
- Ensuring that all reviews are of an appropriate standard.
- Facilitating online discussions.
- Writing the author-visible summary of the decision rationale.

### *Suggestions*

- The PCC assign a guardian to each submission, and each PC member should be assigned roughly the same number of papers.
- Guardians should be informed of their duties at the time that they are invited to the PC.

## **Two Phase Reviewing**

A *two phase review process* is necessary to address the goals of the review process as the number of submission grows. Given a cap on PC review assignment (more than 20 is highly undesirable) and

practical limits of scaling the face-to-face PC meeting, the number of PC reviews is limited. A two phase review process identifies weak papers early and distributes reviewing workload toward those submissions that are most viable. The result of the first phase is that some papers will be relegated, i.e. set aside without extra reviews. Relegated papers may be revisited at the PC meeting at the discretion of the PC chair. In the interests of transparency and timely publication of research, authors of relegated papers should be notified at that time they are relegated. In the interests of accountability and fairness, authors of relegated papers should have the opportunity of writing a response to reviews received prior to the relegation decision. Authors will be given the opportunity to withdraw a relegated paper, giving them the opportunity to submit the work elsewhere.

#### *Prescriptions*

- PLDI will use two phase reviewing. The first phase will relegate the least viable papers so that the second phase can prioritize reviewer effort on the most promising submissions.
- Authors of papers that are candidates for phase one relegation should be invited to submit an author response prior to the phase one decision being taken.
- Authors of papers relegated in phase one should be notified and given the option of withdrawing or continuing on the understanding that they may receive no further reviews.
- In phase one, each paper should receive at least one PC review and at least three reviews in total.

#### *Suggestions*

There is no numeric target for relegation. Papers with scores of C and D only are likely to be related.

## **Conflicts of Interest**

#### *Prescriptions*

Authors and PC members must adhere to SIGPLAN's [conflict of interest policy](#). In cases where the PCC has a conflict with an author, the chair must designate a non-conflicted senior PC member to manage the review process and make the final acceptance determination.

#### *Suggestions*

Conflicts of interest can be tricky to manage in the presence of DBR. The following policy is adapted from Michael Hicks' [FAQ](#).

*Using DBR does not change the principle that reviewers should not review papers with which they have a conflict of interest, even if they do not immediately know who the authors are. Quoting (with slight alteration) from the [ACM SIGPLAN review policies document](#):*

*A conflict of interest is defined as a situation in which the reviewer can be viewed as being able to benefit personally in the process of reviewing a paper. For example, if a reviewer is considering a paper written by a member of his own group, a current student, his advisor, or a group that he is seen as being in close competition with, then the outcome of the review process can have direct benefit to the reviewer's own status. Conflicts of interest may also exist between family members, or if people have a*

*non-trivial financial interest in each other's work. If a conflict of interest exists, the potential reviewer should decline to review the paper.*

*In previous years, PLDI relied on authors to indicate whether they had conflicts of interest with PC/ERC members. However, experience has shown that this practice is prone to abuse and that author-supplied conflict information cannot be relied upon. As a result, it is our recommendation that PC chairs do not rely on authors to declare conflicts, but instead to rely only on PC/ERC members to declare conflicts of interest with people and institutions. While this potentially provides PC members some clues about author identity, this can be mitigated by augmenting the list of authors with the names of authors of papers at previous instances of PLDI when conflicts are declared.*

## **Expert and External Reviews**

PLDI is committed to identifying expert reviewers for every submission, insofar as possible. By "expert," we mean a reviewer who is very well versed and current in related work in the field. Authors gain confidence in the outcome of review decisions when expert reviewers are involved. That said, we believe that well-informed, but non-expert reviews also play a significant role in acceptance decisions: they represent the majority of the future readership of a paper, and involving them mitigates against topical balkanization.

### *Prescriptions*

The PCC should strive to identify at least two (PC or external) expert reviewers for each paper that the PCC deems to be a serious contender for acceptance, but reserve the right not to do so in rare cases where a sufficient number of willing external reviewers can't be identified. The chair should also strive to identify at least one (PC or external) informed non-expert reviewer.

External reviewers will be encouraged to participate in online discussion of the papers they've been assigned; however, they should not see unrelated online PC discussions.

The PCC may designate and announce an External Review Committee (ERC) in the CFP.

### *Suggestions*

The PCC should exercise some judgment in assessing expertise ratings. Some PC members consider themselves experts on most topics, while other, more modest, PC members almost never declare themselves an expert. In the end, the PCC should use his/her judgment in deciding whether the expertise on a given paper is sufficient.

## **Submission of Supplementary Material**

### *Prescriptions*

Authors will be allowed to submit supplementary material (proofs, software, datasets, etc.) at the time of submission. The PC is allowed, but not required, to consult this material. Authors are encouraged to submit anonymized presentations and videos aimed at explaining the paper and its contributions.



Two forms of supplementary material may be submitted: anonymized material, made available to reviewers along with the submission, and non-anonymized material, which will only be made available to reviewers (a) after they have submitted their initial reviews and (b) when the program chair decides that it is absolutely necessary to violate double-blind; this will be done on a case-by-case basis. Both are useful in different circumstances: the former is appropriate for materials (e.g. proofs, technical appendices) that are easy to anonymize and may aid expert reviewers in assessing the technical correctness of a paper, whereas the latter is appropriate for materials (e.g. software, datasets) that are difficult to anonymize.

## **Evaluation Criteria and Acceptance Ratio**

### *Prescriptions*

We strive to accept all high-quality submissions with no numerical limit on acceptable papers.

### *Suggestions*

- The PC should focus its deliberations on:
  - whether there is a genuine research contribution which may include a new insightful evaluation of previous work
  - whether the approach is fundamentally sound
  - whether the community will benefit from reading the paper
  - whether the paper (and supporting material) contain sufficient information for others to reproduce and build on the results
- The committee should lean toward accepting papers that are controversial, that is, ones that, after discussion, still have both a strong advocate and a strong detractor.
- The committee should lean toward accepting papers that explicate their results clearly.
- The committee should lean toward accepting papers that are accompanied by key supplementary material (especially code, data & proofs) over papers that are not (but logically could be).

## **PC Submissions**

PC submissions can be problematic to manage, but we believe that on balance, the benefits of allowing PC submissions exceed the costs.

### *Prescriptions*

PLDI will allow PC submissions, but disallow submissions by the GC and PCC.

Papers written by PC members may be reviewed by both PC and ERC members. SIGPLAN requires that PC papers be held to a [higher standard](#) than other papers. For PLDI, the criterion for acceptability of a PC paper is *clear accept*. We will not prescribe a specific floor on review scores, since such numbers tend to be poorly calibrated. However, the PC chair must ultimately be able to convince the SC and EC that those PC papers that were accepted were comfortably within the

envelope of accepted, non-PC papers.

Acceptance decisions for PC papers will be announced at the same time as other author decisions are announced; i.e., the PC will not be aware of any PC paper decisions until the PC meeting is complete.

The policy on PC submission must be clearly explained to candidate PC members when their participation on the PC is solicited.

## **Author Response**

### *Prescriptions*

PLDI will allow author review responses. Authors will be allowed to read all reviews that are available at the time of the author response period. The PCC will make every effort to complete *all* initial reviews before the author-response period. Late initial reviews are unacceptable. Additional reviews may be solicited after the author response period and it may not be possible for the authors to see these reviews before final decisions are made by the PC. Authors must be allowed at least four days to respond. To ensure fairness among authors, the PCC should be very clear about what the expectations and obligations of the reviewers and authors are with respect to the author response.

### *Suggestions*

- Many authors like seeing the scores on the reviews at author response time, so consider making the scores available as well as the reviews.
- Authors should be strongly encouraged to be brief.
- PC chairs may choose to state that the PC is not obliged to read or respond to rebuttals beyond a certain designated length.
- The PCC may choose to allow authors to provide feedback on review quality, e.g., via a simple rating scale, in addition to rebutting the content of the review.
- PC Chairs are encouraged to offer authors a right of reply to any substantive critique of the submission. This includes reviews submitted after the author response period and any *substantial* new criticism raised during reviewer discussion .

## **Decision Rationale**

### *Prescription*

PC Chairs are encouraged to ensure that author-visible decision rationales are made available for all papers. The task could be assigned to the paper's guardian. The purpose of the rationale is to provide the authors with a concise, coherent summary of the committee's position; something that is frequently not clear from the sum of the individual reviews.

For accepted papers, the rationale will include any changes requested by the reviewers.

## **Shepherding**

PLDI uses shepherding for two reasons: a) to avoid outstanding work being rejected on the basis of a problem that though important, can easily be fixed, and b) to improve the quality of all accepted papers.

### *Prescription*

All accepted papers are subject to lightweight shepherding. The Guardian, or another PC member assigned by the PCC, will assist the authors in implementing the reviewers' requests. Authors are expected to modify their papers appropriately; in the event that the reviewers and the shepherds do not come to an agreement that a paper has been revised satisfactorily, the PCC will have the ultimate decision as to whether the paper will be accepted. The shepherding period should end approximately one week before the camera-ready deadline.

## **Distinguished Papers**

### *Prescription*

Up to 10% of the accepted papers may be designated for ACM SIGPLAN Distinguished Paper Awards.

### *Suggestions*

- Nominations may be solicited from the PC and ERC, and will also include the top 10% papers in terms of numeric scores. PC/ERC members should not nominate papers by authors they are conflicted with.
- PC papers may be nominated.
- The PC/ERC (excluding the authors of any nominated papers) will vote on this set of nominated papers. Each PC member may cast as many votes as the target number of Distinguished Papers. The usual conflict-of-interest rules will apply (e.g., PC/ERC members cannot vote on papers with which they have a conflict of interest).
- The PCC and GC decide which papers will receive the award. While the number of votes received by nominated papers is an important factor, the PCC and GC may exercise their judgment in making their decision.

## **PC Member Responsibilities**

### *Prescriptions*

PC members must commit to reading all of their assigned papers and writing their own reviews. PC members may also suggest additional reviewers, but they should not subcontract reading or review writing duties to others. The PCC must always be consulted before additional reviewers are contacted to avoid conflicts and to ensure topical balance.

PC members must commit to fully participating in the PC decision making process. An individual who cannot do so should decline the invitation.

PC members should be directed to the [SIGPLAN Republication Policy](#). If a related version of the paper appeared in a workshop, take into account whether its call for papers stated that publication in the workshop is not intended to preclude later publication.

## PC Management

### *Prescriptions*

PLDI in-person PC meetings are no longer required starting with PLDI 2021. The PLDI SC must revisit this change in 2024, and should survey the community and fully reconsider the switch away from in-person PC meetings, taking a broad view of the results of the change.

PC members are allowed to participate in the discussion (both online and in-person) of papers that they didn't review, and with which they have no conflicts.

If there is a PC meeting, it should be preceded by an extensive online discussion period. The online discussion period should be a minimum of one week, but two (or more) is strongly preferred. During the discussion period, the PC will be allowed to see all papers for which they have no conflicts, and participate in the discussion. Online discussion must be actively facilitated by the PCC, and paper guardians.

The PCC will strive to ensure, prior to the PC meeting, that every *competitive* paper has at least

- two PC reviews
- at least one, and preferably two expert reviews

PC papers may be reviewed by both PC and ERC members. If there is a PC meeting, decisions on PC papers will be announced at the end of that meeting.

Keeping the same reviewing form has benefit for authors and reviewers as they can more easily calibrate and interpret scores if the ratings are well understood. Nierstrasz' Identify the Champion scoring process has stood the test of time. The review form shall have (at least) the following fields:

- Paper score:
  - A: Good paper. I will champion it at the PC meeting.
  - B: OK paper, but I will not champion it.
  - C: Weak paper, though I will not fight strongly against it.
  - D: Serious problems. I will argue to reject this paper.
- Reviewer expertise:
  - X: I am an expert in the subject area of this paper.
  - Y: I am knowledgeable in the area, though not an expert.
  - Z: I am not an expert. My evaluation is that of an informed outsider.
- Paper summary (reviewer's synopsis provides a useful sanity check)
- Points in favor (encourage positive reviewing)
- Points against (be clear about principal objections)
- Detailed comments for authors (body of review)

### *Suggestions*

- The PCC should acquaint themselves ahead of time with the conference management system (HotCRP), and the facilities it offers.
- PC members should be strongly encouraged to submit reviews as they are completed; this makes it easier for the PCC to monitor progress and identify problems early.
- The PCC may wish to identify major reviewer disagreements and papers without sufficient expertise and seek second opinions where necessary to help resolve the disagreements.
- We recommend that the PCC allow all reviewers to see decisions for the papers they have reviewed before decisions are publicly announced.

## **PC Meeting**

### *Prescriptions*

The PCC will designate a “COI-PCC” who will handle the PCC is conflicted with.

### *Suggestions*

- Note that a PC meeting is not required.
- Experience has shown that a two day PC meeting provides adequate time for deliberation while avoiding PC burnout.
- The GC may play the role of “COI-PCC”.
- The PCC is encouraged to have one or two dedicated assistants to deal with timekeeping and bookkeeping in order to allow the PCC to focus entirely on the discussion rather than logistical concerns. A senior non-PC member such as the GC or next PCC can fulfill this role.
- Instead of considering the papers in order from highest-ranked to lowest, consider the papers in a quasi-random order (see article by Kathleen Fisher in SIGPLAN Notices, 46(4):17, April 2011).
- If the most positive reviewer for a paper is external, the chair may wish to ensure that the paper is discussed on day one of the PC meeting and the outcome summarized by the PCC so that the external reviewer can provide additional feedback prior to a final decision.
- The PCC is encouraged to use a multi-round discussion process for papers where an initial consensus is not apparent. Tying up the entire PC on account of a disagreement between two or three reviewers is poor use of time. Scheduled breaks can be very effective in managing such disputes whilst keeping the PC focussed and engaged.
- The PCC is encouraged to distinguish between contentious and marginal papers and table all marginal papers until the end of the meeting to allow them to be systematically considered in the context of the emergent acceptance standard.

## **One-minute madness**

### *Suggestions*

Each day of the conference, the first session of the day should be a plenary, typically including an

invited talk, and also including "one-minute madness", sixty-second summaries from each speaker scheduled for that day. The goal is to help attendees decide which session to attend, and to provide a view of PLDI that can be attended by all in spite of parallel sessions. Attention will be required to ensure smooth progression of speakers, including pre-loading all slides on a single machine; organizers may wish to schedule a rehearsal.

#### *Recommendations*

You may wish to use three student volunteers: one running the laptop, one as compere on-stage with the stopwatch, one off-stage marshalling the queue.

## **Naming of Proceedings**

#### *Prescription*

The proceedings should be consistently named from year to year. The proper capitalization and name is: "Proceedings of the Nth ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation".

## **Artifact Evaluation Process**

#### *Prescription*

PLDI is committed to having an Artifact Evaluation Committee (AEC). The AEC is run by a separate chair who selects AEC members, typically advanced graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. The AEC is provided with accepted papers and their reviews. The outcome of the AEC is a seal to indicate that a paper had an artifact that met or exceeded the expectation set in the body of the paper. The seal is printed with the paper and displayed on the conference web site. The AEC may choose to award a prize for the best artifact.

## **TOPLAS referrals**

#### *Prescription*

The TOPLAS Editor in Chief may forward papers accepted at TOPLAS before the PC meeting date. These papers must be original contributions, and not extended versions of previous conference papers.

The PCC will review the papers and decide whether they are topically of relevance to PLDI, if so, the papers will be presented during the conference. Forwarded papers will have a one page abstract in the PLDI proceeding. The title of the paper will be identical to the TOPLAS title with the word "Abstract" prepended.

## **Errata**

The PLDI community values the integrity of its published record. When the published

work is subsequently found to be incorrect or misleading, the PLDI culture should be that authors correct the record, following the ACM's policy for updating published papers.

### *Recommendation*

Authors are encouraged to update the DL copy of the pdf of their paper with errata when a significant correction to the work needs to be made. The update should comply with the ACM policy for updates.

### **Academic Disputes**

Occasionally, a *third party* will bring to light information that throws into doubt the validity of the core of a published paper. Ideally, the authors of the affected paper will be approached by the complainant/s and will address the concerns through an erratum, following the procedure above. In the case where this does not occur, the following process should be applied.

### *Prescription*

The following process should be applied to any third party bringing to light information that seriously threatens the validity of a published PLDI paper that has not been addressed by the authors through an erratum:

1. The complainant/s should present their concern to the PC Chair of the proceedings in which the affected paper appears. The complaint will be limited to a **single page of plain text** (about 500 words, with references as necessary), and must be made within **one year** of the publication of the affected paper.
2. The PC Chair may dismiss the complaint if they deem it to be not serious enough to warrant an erratum (see Errata, above).
3. The PC Chair will promptly forward the complaint to the affected authors and give the authors **one month** in which to respond.
4. The authors may respond to the complaint by providing an erratum (above) *or* a rebuttal limited to a **single page of plain text** (about 500 words).
5. In the *case that the authors provide an erratum*, the PC Chair will communicate the erratum to the complainant/s and give them **one month** in which to reconsider their complaint, at which point they may withdraw their complaint or return to step 1 with a complaint revised in light of the new erratum.
6. In the *case that the authors do not provide errata*, the process terminates.

At the completion of the process, the PC Chair will ensure that: a) any errata generated by the process are installed in the ACM DL (see Errata, above) and b) if not dismissed in step 2, the one-page complaint and the authors' one-page response are included in the comments

section of the paper's DL entry, with a covering note from the PC Chair. The PC Chair may 'shepherd' either of the one-page documents if necessary to keep the discourse reasonable and professional.

Either party, if unsatisfied by the adjudication of the PC Chair, may take the matter to the PLDI SC.