

	1996	1996	1995	1995	1994	1994
	income	spend	income	spend	income	spend
Subscription income	20,200		19,300		15,500	
Sale of back issues + ACC7 book	3,500		3,600		2,300	
Bank interest on deposits	1,800		1,800		1,700	
Journal printing and postage		22,300		20,000		20,200
Secretarial help with Journal		23,100		22,500		22,200
Other postage/etc costs		600		1,300		600
Net income from tournament events	47,400		53,100		0,00	
Hfl /dollar/GBP exchange rate movements		3,100				
Net cash flow over year	+23,800		+34,000		-23,500	

**Table 2:** Income and expenditures from 1 January to 31 December 1996. Figures are approximate and in US dollar equivalent. 1995 and 1994 figures are also shown for comparison.

## THE ICCA JOURNAL ON INTERNET: AN INVESTIGATION

*P. Beck and A. E. M. van den Bosch<sup>1</sup>*

Maastricht, The Netherlands

The debate continues! Recently, a survey was taken to measure member response to distribution of the ICCA Journal as an electronic publication on the Internet. The sample of members included a census of membership e-mail addresses retained by the Association. The sample size was 20 percent of the total membership.

Our thanks to the members who responded promptly to the brief questionnaire. Our response rate was an impressive 74 percent. The thoughtful comments sent by many members will add to the value of future discussions on the topic of electronic communication of ICCA business.

Below we provide the survey and the results of the survey.

### **Will you take 5 minutes now to help us improve services for members of the International Computer Chess Association?**

Publishing the ICCA Journal in an electronic form has been discussed by leaders and members for some time. Your feedback on how electronic publication will impact your satisfaction as a member is needed. Your name was selected for a sample of membership so your response is important. Please take five minutes now to reply to this brief survey. Your prompt reply will be appreciated.

- 1 Do you have access to the internet?  
Yes (100%) or No
- 2 Do you share your copy of the ICCA Journal with another person after it arrives in the mail?  
Yes (19%) or No (81%)

<sup>1</sup> Universiteit Maastricht, Department of Computer Science, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands  
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- 3 If an electronic copy is developed, would you still want to receive a printed issue?  
Yes (82%) or No (14%) 4% undecided
- 4 Are you willing to pay an additional US \$5 or the equivalent in pounds or Dutch guilders per year to have access to a complete electronic issue via password?  
Yes (40%) or No (56%) 4% undecided
- 5 Is your main interest in the ICCA Journal (responses not mutually exclusive)  
Research (67%)  
Leisure (41%)  
Other (0%)

End of survey

A large amount of comments and ideas were received. We provide three of them.

"Sometimes hardcopies of the Journal (in its red colour) help to convince sponsors."

"In principle, I am all in favour. However, I would urge a degree of caution. For example, one advantage of a paper copy is that I can point to a publication and say to colleagues "look, that is my paper and it is in a proper, respectable academic publication", I think that currently they would be rather sceptical of a publication which appeared only or primarily in electronic form."

"Electronic publishing is just around the corner. Some journals already do it. Let us be leaders rather than followers."

So far we conclude that our members highly appreciate a printed issue of the ICCA Journal. It seems that an electronic copy will not replace the ICCA Journal in its current form in the near future.

If you were not among the members reached for this survey, your opinion is still important to us. We invite you to send your comments on this issue to Professor H.J. van den Herik, Editor-in-Chief ICCA Journal, Universiteit Maastricht, Department of Computer Science, P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, e-mail [icca@cs.unimaas.nl](mailto:icca@cs.unimaas.nl)

In the June issue we will inform you further on this topic.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### COMPUTER CHESS: A UNIFYING THEME

*M. Levene*<sup>1</sup>

London, England

In a recent issue the Editors of the *ICCA Journal* solicited opinions on the future of the Journal. As an avid reader of the Journal and a contributor I would like to voice some of my thoughts.

I think the ICCA is an excellent journal of high quality and I am always eagerly looking forward to receiving the next issue. Personally I do not think that the game of Chess will be 'solved', even when a chess machine is able to beat the World Champion, an eventuality that now seems to be unquestionable. There are still many avenues to explore in heuristics of game playing that will improve the quality of decision making of current algorithms. I feel that in this respect the *ICCA Journal* needs to define clearly its aims and scope. Looking through the current issue I did not see any such statement, although it is clearly stated that the ICCA's purpose is to promote and further all aspects of computer chess.

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