History Activities Coordinator — Anthony Davies

Goals

The same goals as before (e.g. supporting Technology History activities, Milestone proposals, and encouraging students and YPs to take an interest in the technical history of their area of work and interest). Another goal is to find a successor for my position in the R8 Committee.

Progress against goals since the last report

Mainly progress with Milestone proposals and the work done towards the delivery of HISTELCON2019 in Glasgow. One Milestone is approved for unveiling in Glasgow, and it is hoped that at least one other in UK will be approved at the September meeting of the History Committee and one in Budapest for the Metro.

History Activities participation in conferences, meetings or other events

For much of 2019 my main IEEE activity has been the detailed organisation of HISTELCON2019 to take place in Glasgow 18-19 Sept 2019. Linked with that activity has been working with Peter Grant on the organisation of a Milestone Unveiling I set up the Eventbrite registration site for the 17th September events.

I participate in the meetings of the UK&I Section LMAG activity group committee and the main activity includes work for and visits related to planned Milestone proposals. E asyChair was used for the HISTELCON2019 paper submission and reviewing, etc. and communications with authors, and it is not easy to imagine how this could have been done otherwise except by some other similar system.

History Activities activities/initiatives planned

Continuation of current activities. Probable (e-mail) involvement in the plans/decisions for the next HISTELCON: One bid has been received from Russia. Decision of course lies with the R8 Committee.

History Activities activities/initiatives developed

The success or otherwise of all the Glasgow events of the week starting 16 Sept 2019 will be known by the time of the R8 Committee meeting in Spain !

Proposals for improvements

R8 could allocate a larger budget to History Activities: in particular, HISTELCON is called a 'flagship conference' of R8, but does not get significant funding from R8, if any.

Points of Concern

It is the intention that the authors of papers presented at HISTELCON2019 may be able to have them included in IEEE Xplore: that will need a fair amount of work following HISTELCON2019, and the availability of someone to do that is not certain. There is the on-going conference risk that some authors submit but do not plan to attend, and therefore must NOT be allowed to get their papers into IEEE Xplore by this route.

Other Issues to report

Getting IEEE approval for HISTELCON2019 was unexpectedly complicated, because of the needs to learn how to get the Letter of Acquisition, the access process for authors to the on-line electronic copyright form (eCF), getting access to CrossCheck, the tool for checking plagiarism, etc. For small conferences with limited time and people to organise them, this process is a difficult overhead and takes a lot of time and effort (and the need to learn how to use it). A simplified process for small conferences would be helpful