

Dues Office

9650 Rockville Pike, Suite L2310
Bethesda MD 20814-3998 (USA)
Phone: (301) 634-7029
Fax: (301) 634-7099
Email: staff@imstat.org

Society Office

PO Box 22718
Beachwood OH 44122 (USA)
Phone: (216) 295-2340
Fax: (216) 921-6703
Email: ims@imstat.org



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April 14, 2003

Prof. Robert P. Dobrow
Dept. of Math and Computer Science
Carleton College
Northfield, MN 55057

Dear Professor Dobrow:

The IMS Executive Committee has reviewed with enthusiasm your proposal to build a branch of National Science Digital Library in probability. In particular, the Survey Journal and Encyclopedia of Probability appear wonderfully consistent with the purpose of IMS, which is "to foster the development and dissemination of the theory and application of statistics and probability". We note that you have already engaged the enthusiasm and involvement of many leaders in the probability research community.

We expect that the Council of IMS would be receptive to a proposal for formal IMS affiliation with, and support of, either the Survey Journal, the Encyclopedia or both. We recall that an independent group of probabilists in 1996 sought affiliation for the then new electronic journals *Electronic Journal of Probability (EJP)* and *Electronic Communications in Probability (ECP)*. A copy of the affiliation statement then approved by IMS Council is attached. Since that time, the IMS has in fact taken over the appointment of editors, and *EJP* and *ECP* have become in all essentials IMS journals.

We recognize that while the IMS might play a role in the appointment of editors of the Probability Survey Journal and Encyclopedia, it might not be an exclusive one. For if successful these projects are likely to replicate and extend to other branches of mathematics. In that case the original Probability projects would become components of a larger structure which would likely involve other professional societies such as AMS, SIAM, and JASA, in a way which is yet to be determined.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we wish you prompt success with your project, and welcome further discussion of its development.

Sincerely Yours,

S.R.S. Varadhan
President