

A Thank You to John I Davies: Steward of Principium, Gardener of Ideas

After more than a decade at the helm of Principium, the interstellar community's flagship magazine, John I Davies steps down as Editor. His tenure has been marked by a rare combination of precision, vision, and care – qualities that have shaped the magazine into a unique platform for dialogue, creativity, and exploration.

Andreas Hein

Principium has long been more than a publication; it has been a space where ideas flourish, voices are heard, and the community finds both conversation and reflection. Behind its pages lies an extraordinary commitment: the precision of a master watchmaker, ensuring deadlines are met and content is refined without ever stifling the individuality of its contributors. John's approach to editing has been as exacting as it has been gentle, a balance that few could maintain over so many years.

John's impact is perhaps best described through a metaphor. He is less an editor in the conventional sense and more a gardener of ideas. Principium is not a manicured corporate outlet with rigid form and sanitized content; it is a biotope, a living ecosystem of perspectives and insights. Every contributor, every viewpoint, has its place. Readers can wander through its pages like a garden, discovering flashes of insight, surprises, and moments of reflection—content that resonates long after it has been read.



Wearing one of his many i4is hats, John ponders wormholes in Lewis Carroll during the i4is Wormhole Symposium in London in November 2014.
Credit: Kelvin F Long

The essence of Principium under John's leadership can be likened to a fusion of "art brut" and Bauhaus: raw, inventive creativity tempered by clear structure. It is a publication that challenges, excites, and inspires – never watered down or constrained by convention. In doing so, John has cultivated a magazine that reflects the interstellar community itself: diverse, dynamic, and constantly evolving.

John, these words are more than a recognition of your work. They are an acknowledgment of your modest, persistent, and caring guidance, which has left an indelible mark on Principium. Your legacy is a magazine that is both a chronicle and a living conversation, a space where the interstellar community can gather, explore, and grow. For all that you have done, the community owes you its gratitude – not in hollow praise, but in the enduring vitality of the publication you have so lovingly nurtured.

Thank you.

Andreas
on behalf of the i4is Board of Directors

Fun Fact:

As a testament to his efforts, in the fifty issues of Principium published before this one, John's name appears 624 times!



John in charge of the i4is presence at the World Science Fiction Convention in London in August 2014.
Credit: Rob Swinney