ACM and Scientific Publishing

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ACM CEO

Outline

- ACM and scientific publishing
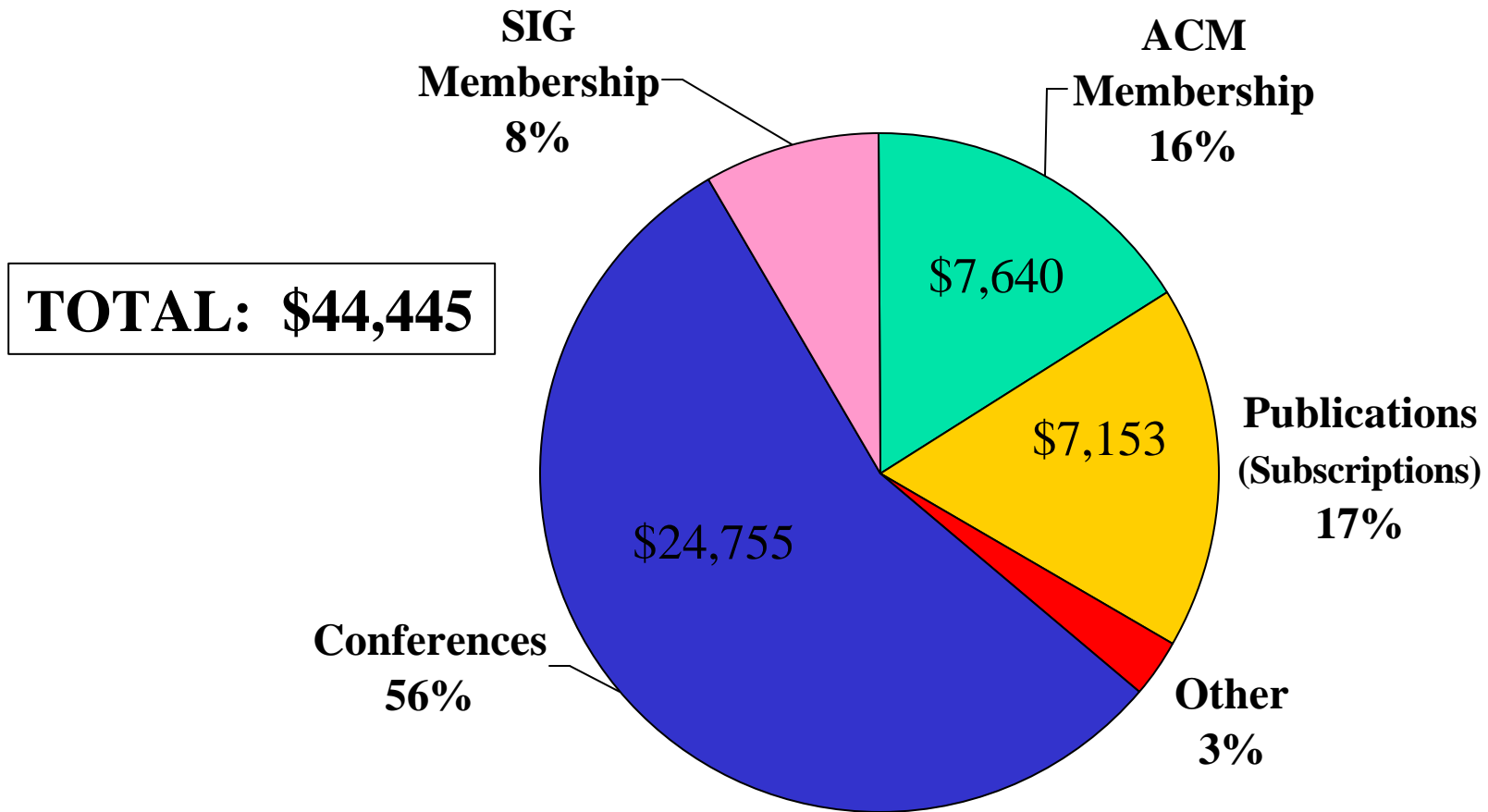- Computer science publishing in 2017

ACM

- Mission
  - Advance the art, science, and application of information technology
  - Foster open and free interchange of information
  - Serve both professional and the public interests
  - Promote the highest ethical and professional standards

- ACM Publishes as a by-product of its mission

ACM Scholarly Publishing

- Goals
  - Foster the emergence of the field of computing
  - Timely dissemination of *quality* information
  - Serve both the research community and the serious practitioner
- Vehicles
  - Archival journals and transactions
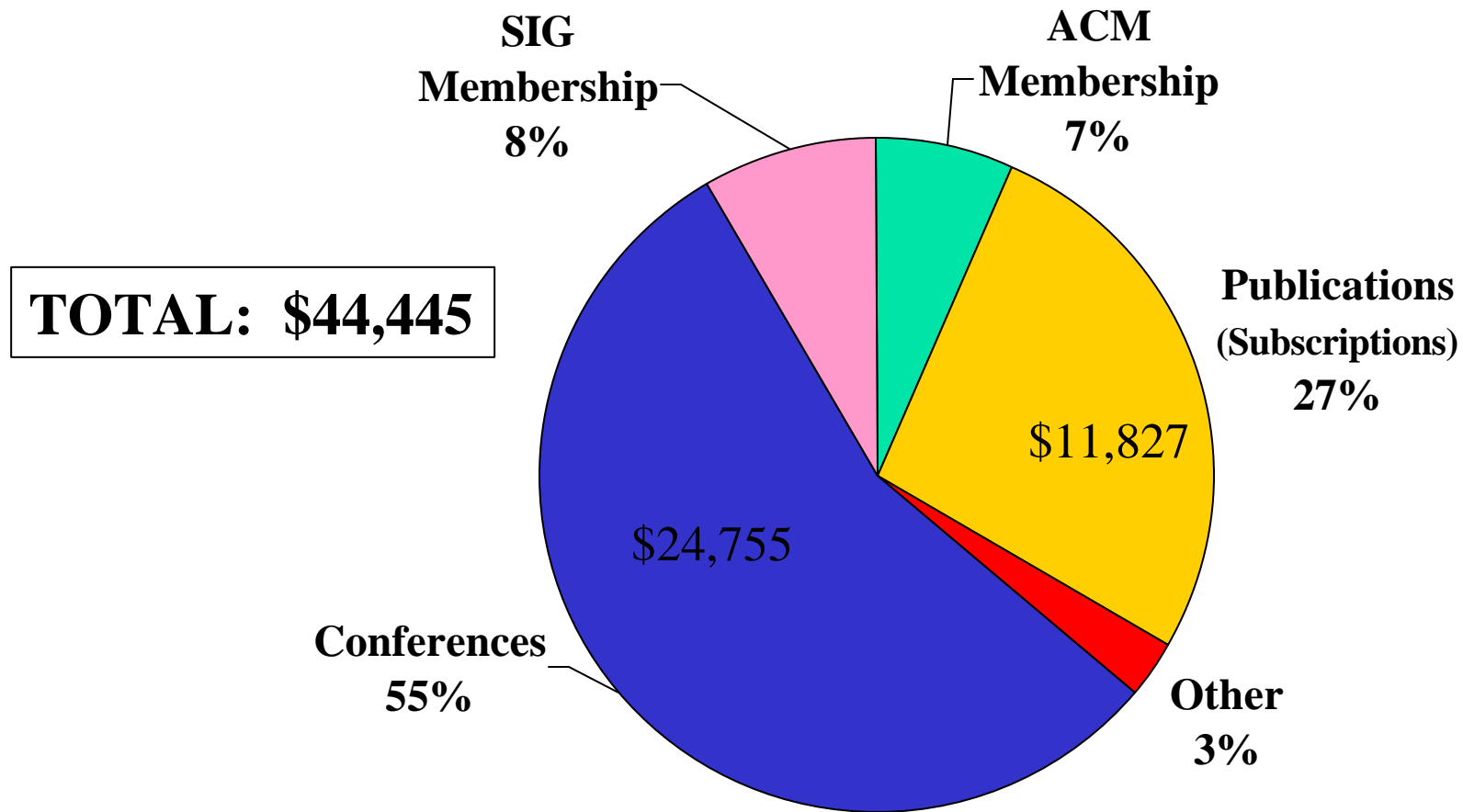 - Conference proceedings

ACM Revenue (2001)

TOTAL: $44,445

- SIG Membership 8%
- ACM Membership 16% — $7,640
- Publications (Subscriptions) 17% — $7,153
- Other 3%
- Conferences 56% — $24,755

ACM Revenue (2001)

SIG Membership 8%

ACM Membership 7%

Publications (Subscriptions) 27%

$11,827

TOTAL: $44,445

$24,755

Conferences 55%

Other 3%

ACM and Electronic Publishing

- Goals
  - Be at the cutting-edge
  - Provide better service to our members and the computing community
  - Do the right thing as a learned society
    - For authors
    - For libraries
    - For the computing community

ACM and Electronic Publishing

- Achieving goals:
    - Early move to electronic publishing (1992)
    - Model copyright policy (1994)
    - Early launch of a digital library (1997)
    - Reasonable pricing for members and institutions
    - Founding member of CrossRef (2000)
    - Complete repository of everything ACM has published (2001)
    - Digital Library plus a bibliographic database for computing
    - Rich set of features

ACM and Electronic Publishing

- Pressures
  - Changing business model
  - Open/free access initiatives
- ACM's response
  - Continue to evolve copyright policy
  - Serve the "community" by serving our members in the large
  - Focusing more on services vs. content
- Still value in the ACM role of assuring quality

The Future

Major Forces

- Technology
- Evolution of copyright policy
- Evolution of peer review

Major Forces

- Technology
  - Ubiquitous broadband
  - Everything will be in digital form somewhere
  - Richer formats for content and metadata
  - Sophisticated knowledge/data management and searching/harvesting

Major Forces

- Evolution of copyright policy
  - DRM will have eliminated fair-use ... or ...
  - Copyright restrictions decreased
  - In either case, copyright will be held by authors/owners
- Evolution of peer review
  - There will still be a need to assess quality
  - May come from community assessment and use
  - May come from the community anointing experts to assert quality judgments

What Might it Look Like?

- Authors retain copyright
- Consumers describe interests.
  - Sophisticated web-crawlers pull information
  - Publishers push information
- Authors deposit publications.
- The community filters for relevance and quality
- Is there a role for ACM?
  - Yes
  - Fostering the communities … as it always has.