

# Tribute to Ian Michael (1958-2023), desktop publisher extraordinaire

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**Desktop publishing** (definition): *production of printed matter by means of a desktop computer, with special software. Desktop publishing enables reports, magazines, books, advertising matter, etc., to be produced cheaply with a layout and print quality similar to that of typeset products.* (Oxford languages)

The desktop publishing house **IM Publications Open** was established in 1975 with company domicile in Chichester, UK. The company's market outreach can be found here: <https://www.impopen.com/>  
The impact of Ian Michael on the development of the barely 20-year-old organised scientific community of *sampling* has been overwhelming – yet only a very few, less than a handful, of our membership, has actually met Ian in person - How did this come about?



I met Ian for the very first time at the NIR 2013 world conference in La Grande Motte, near Montpellier, France. Enjoying the well-known camaraderie and ambience in the NIR community, one afternoon my path happened by the exhibition hall, and fate would have it that I gravitated to the stand manned by Ian himself – whom I at that time only knew of, but had never met in person, as the publisher of a publication I had marveled at, and to be frank thoroughly *envied*, for many years earlier, the NIR News: “Such an effective, easy-on-the-eyes communication platform for the NIR community!” (my words).

At this time, I was heavily engaged in trying to organize a very different scientific community, the world sampling community, from where we often looked enviously to our NIR *freres* because of the long-standing tradition of successful, well-organised world conferences, the *elegant* desktop magazine NIR News, and a Council working hard and professionally for the common good with regular, high-quality world conferences. What’s not to like, I thought? So, in a spontaneous move I blurted out: “Ian, there are many in, and outside the NIR community who *admires* the NIR News and the community it serves [*followed by me extolling many other virtues*]. Do you have room for one more?”

IM: “One more what? KHE: “One more scientific society!” Ian: “Well, yes of course, love to - Why not?”

And with that one small step for a fish crawling out of the ocean for the first time, elephants, birds, and humans came into principal existence! Meaning, with Ian's characteristic, kind interest in helping scientific endeavors, what *became* TOS Forum, the SAMPLING column in Spectroscopy Europe/World and a sampling textbook was under way already. Here I present a tribute to Ian Michael, desktop publisher extraordinaire and all he has meant to the IPGSA, with a focus on both tangible as well as intangible contributions to our work, which, alas, was often hidden in the background, but which professionally always shined brilliantly.



### **Kim H. Esbensen**

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Kim H. Esbensen, PhD, Dr (hon), has been professor at three universities/government research institutions since 1990. In 2015 he phased out the academic career for a quest as independent researcher and consultant <https://kheconsult.com/>. But as he has never lost his love for teaching, he is still very active as an international visiting, guest, and affiliate professor. He was chairman of the taskforce behind the world's first horizontal (matrix-independent) sampling standard DS 3077 (2013), currently being revised for its 3rd edition, and on its way to be inducted as an ISO standard. In 2003 he inaugurated the biannual series of World Conference on Sampling and Blending (WCSB), with its 11th edition in May 2023 South Africa. In 2013 he was awarded the prestigious Pierre Gy Sampling Gold Medal (WCSB6) for "Excellence in Teaching and Application of the Theory of Sampling". In 2020 he published the now widely used textbook: "Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Sampling", SIX-Publishing [six-publishing.com/tos-introduction/](https://six-publishing.com/tos-introduction/). He is Editor of "Sampling Science and Technology (SST)": <https://www.sst-magazine.info/>. Esbensen can be reached at [khe.consult@gmail.com](mailto:khe.consult@gmail.com)