

# The George Boole Foundation

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## The George Boole Institute Appeal

A principal objective of the GBF is to gather support for the organization of an Institute to be called The George Boole Institute to be founded under the terms and conditions of current company registration laws, procedures and operational requirements.

The George Boole Foundation welcomes enquiries from those who would like to provide financial donations for the organization of The George Boole Institute. The proposed role and objectives of the George Boole Institute are described in GBF Brief No.3.

### *George Boole Institute Appeal Fund*

The Foundation will manage an appeal to collect financial contributions to support the establishment of The George Boole Institute. The name of this appeal will be ***The George Boole Institute Appeal*** and funds donated will be held in a separate bank account and be known as the ***George Boole Institute Appeal Fund***.

The eventual use of the funds collected, within the context of the establishment of the Institute, will be set out in a ***Financing Agreement*** with each sponsor or donor. Before such funds are applied as agreed under a Financing Agreement they will be held in an interest bearing account under terms and conditions to be agreed between the Foundation, the sponsor and the Foundation's bank. In addition to legal safeguards contained within the ***Financing Agreement*** (see under GBI Sponsorship Agreement GBF Brief No.6) there are standards and activity quality safeguards which will be adhered to and managed through the use of a real time audit (RTA). The operational procedures of the RTA are established by the terms of the Financing Agreement. Further information on RTA can be found in GBF Brief No.05.

### A Note for prospective sponsors & donors for the GBI Appeal Fund

The reason for this proposal to establish The George Boole Institute is that George Boole has never been afforded an adequate permanent national recognition of his vital contribution to our fund of knowledge and practical benefits we gain, as a society, from the mathematics of logic developed. The subsequent applications of his theory, in the form of Boolean Logic, have made possible the worldwide digital revolution where his methods have facilitated efficient device and software design and improved procedural logic in the automation of precise deductive methods and general decision analysis.

There are several national and international organizations concerned with electronics, digital logic and information theory but none of these deals comprehensively with the breadth of George Boole's legacy as contained in his collected works. In particular the emphasis on the most striking and better known application of his work in digital systems design, implementation and operations has tended to overshadow the other important contributions by George Boole. These include his major contribution to logic in the sense of philosophy and to the understanding of how the human mind works in the process of inference. Indeed, much of the so-called 5<sup>th</sup> Generation computer development in the 1980s was essentially a process of catching up with Boole's concepts and explanations which he had set out in 1854, some 130 years earlier. One might excuse this oversight because Boole was not addressing the issue of how to automate human thought processes but rather with understanding the calculus and logic of that process and then setting this out as a mathematical logic.

Accordingly, the objective of The George Boole Institute is to provide a vehicle for the recognition and dissemination of a more comprehensive appreciation of George Boole's contributions to society. However, rather than limiting the scope of consideration to digital systems, The George Boole Institute will work to draw attention to the scope of Boolean Logic in improving the assessment of risks associated with decisions through the use of decision analysis in applications ranging from simple optimization procedures, business operations, law, constitution and the development of more effective financial management and economic policy development.

Rather than make this Appeal process be one of the establishment of an institutional shell, the George Boole Foundation proposes a funding structure which will establish a range of operations which will be beneficial to donors and sponsors in the short term, even before the Institute is formed, and will become a beneficial legacy for the Institute.

A small percentage of donations will be used to support ongoing activities of the Foundation including the Decision Analysis Initiative (DAI) which will run from 2010 to 2015. The DAI is an extension activity for disseminating information and knowledge on beneficial applications of decision analysis. This activity will include the design and implementation of a range of online demonstrations of the effectiveness and utility of decision analysis systems for both horizontal and vertical applications. Applications will be reviewed from the standpoint of methods applied, costs of design, implementation, operations and performance impacts.

Ongoing communications on Foundation activities will be maintained on Foundation website:

<http://www.boolean.org.uk>

a DAI dedicated website will carry the online demonstrations at:

<http://www.decisionanalysis.org.uk>.

Supportive actions for the DAI will include a series of e-publications<sup>1</sup> on decision analysis designed to provide useful information for managers in business, governance, students as well as individuals.

DAI activities will be supported by the organization of forums, workshops and conferences on decision analysis.

The current status of this initiative can be reviewed in the latest DAI Status Report; these are issued at the end of June and December each year.

During the course of the DAI the GBF will organize the gathering of support and funding for the establishment of The George Boole Institute with the objective of bringing about its foundation by approximately mid-2012.

## Sponsorship

The GBF wishes to attract sponsorship to support DAI activities so as to lever the investment being made by the GBF and thereby bringing to bear more resources for the development of the DAI and thereby maximise the general beneficial impacts of the initiative.

## Our view of the role of Sponsorship

Sponsorship consists of the provision of resources, usually in the form of financial contributions, in support of activities carried out by others and considered to be worthy of such support by the Sponsor.

Sponsorship has a dual effect:

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<sup>1</sup> These will be published as part of the Boolean Society Initiative series of publications an educational initiative of the GBF

### *The sponsored*

Sponsorship demonstrates that specific activities have been deemed to be worthy of support by a broader constituency than those carrying out the activities. On the part of those receiving sponsorship, more effort can be marshalled to make the sponsored activities more effective

### *The sponsor*

The Sponsor is seen to be supporting activities of importance to specific constituencies or to society in general. The association of sponsors with the promotion of activities considered to be worthwhile has an important impact upon the business and social profile of the sponsor.

### Sponsorship standards

In order to ensure that the act of sponsorship results in mutual benefits there is a need for those being sponsored to carry out their activities in as effective a manner as possible so that the promised outcomes of funded activities match or exceed the expectations of the desired performance.

There is, therefore, within the terms of each sponsorship agreement, a necessity for an adherence to some important principles designed to make sponsorship well worthwhile for the sponsor and those sponsored. In order to achieve a high degree of mutual satisfaction under a sponsorship agreement it is necessary to predefine how money will be spent and for both sponsor and those sponsored to have in place an agreed and common mechanism for monitoring and evaluating outcomes.

Sponsors can obtain a short to medium term advantage by requesting that some of the DAI demonstration work be dedicated to applications of interest to the sponsor's own activities. In this way the sponsor will see early results from the exercise in a practical fashion and in a way which could help enhance the performance of the sponsor's own activities. More detail on how this can be agreed is set out in the GBF Brief No. 06 "GBI Funding Agreement".

One of the common disappointments with sponsorships is for activity objectives to be insufficiently specified and for there to be no ongoing (real time) monitoring and evaluation to prevent wasted resources. As a result, by the time an evaluation of a sponsorship outcome is undertaken funds have been committed and there are no convenient means of recovering funds which may have been considered to have been spent inappropriately. The administrative and procedural overheads associated with recovering inappropriately spent funds can be considerable and involve a substantial amount of time. Such events can reflect badly on both the sponsor as well as those sponsored.

To prevent this sort of eventuality the GBF will make a Real Time Audit (RTA) (see <http://www.realtimeaudit.eu>) a component of the agreement with the sponsor in order to keep funded activities within the envelope of pre-agreed activity performance criteria. The use of RTA will be bound by the legal terms set out in each sponsor's Financing Agreement. As a result, sponsorship funds are only used when specified qualitative and quantitative objectives have been met. The RTA system to be used is an online facility where the sponsors, or their agents, can access activity lines to "look over the shoulders" of the activity managers. This enables a transparent view of the current status of sponsored activities, assessment of deliverables, the degree to which objectives have been satisfied and the specific amounts drawn down from the sponsorship funds against satisfactory output. In the case of higher funding thresholds, the authorization of the activation of payment from sponsor's funds can be controlled by the sponsor, or their agent, making use of the online RTA system.

25th February, 2010.