



Interfaces

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://pubsonline.informs.org>

Editorial: A Progress Report

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To cite this article:

Gary L. Lilien, (1983) Editorial: A Progress Report. Interfaces 13(5):10-11. <https://doi.org/10.1287/inte.13.5.10>

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Editorial: A Progress Report

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This is not really an editorial. It is a progress report to *Interfaces* readers. Our mail has indicated that many of you do notice the difference in the journal. We have tried to increase readability while at the same time increasing quality. Those who write feel we have had some success.

What has happened in the last year? From April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1983, we received 206 articles. Of those, we accepted 83 for publication, for an acceptance rate of 40%. An easy publication journal, right? Wrong. Those figures are distorted because they include six CPMS prize papers, 15 solicited papers on strategic management, and about 20 papers that were in a state of revision from the previous editor. A more telling ratio is that, since February, we have accepted seven articles and rejected 28, for an acceptance rate of 7/35 or 20%. Authors

should expect that acceptance rate to be closer to the norm.

We bill *Interfaces* as a quick turnaround journal. Do we deliver? Our mean time with reviewers (from receipt to disposition) has been 14½ working days. The median time, three days, reflects this editor's tendency to reject a large fraction of articles immediately. If "instant rejects" are removed, the mean time with reviewers is 18 working days (less than a month). We think this is good service.

The active measures we've taken to solicit articles have paid off in a 33% higher submission rate of articles than a year ago. This has led to the beginning of a backlog, and we will be raising our standards for acceptance in the coming year.

All is rosy, then? Not really. Our greatest need is still for interesting appli-

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0092-2102/83/1305-0010\$01.25

INTERFACES 13: 5 October 1983 (pp. 10-11)

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cations of verified value (monetary or otherwise). See any of our lead articles. If you have performed a comparable study, write it up, and send it to us. You can get your organization's logo on the cover. No waiting.

Bear this in mind. The savings or benefits don't have to be big in absolute terms. Large relative savings are being realized by small companies who are beginning to apply MS/OR methods with the new mini- or microcomputers. If you are working with one of those small companies, write up your application and send it to me.

In the months ahead you can look forward to a special issue on strategic management, a special section on forestry application, more public sector applications, and a series of special non-US applications.

Let us know how you like what we're doing and, if you have a suggestion for improvement, be prepared to be appointed to help make it happen!

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