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Editorial Note

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Editorial Note

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The performance of the journal is reviewed, and metrics for 2007 are presented. In addition, key editorial transitions are highlighted.

Key words: annual performance; senior editors; editorial transitions

This issue marks the completion of my three-year term as Editor-in-Chief. I have been reappointed for a second term, and I am delighted to accept the appointment through the end of 2010. An INFORMS task force appointed by the VP of Publications and comprised of Ramayya Krishnan (Carnegie Mellon University, Chair), Sandra Slaughter (Georgia Tech University), Paulo Goes (University of Connecticut), and Peter Bell (University of Western Ontario) evaluated the performance of the journal to make a recommendation as to whether the Editor-in-Chief should be offered a second 3-year term, as well as to provide ideas for further improvement. Their surveys have been very helpful in recognizing where the journal has improved its performance over the past few years and where it could enhance its stature as a top journal. I wish to thank the members of the committee for their diligent and insightful analysis.

The task force solicited input about the journal from numerous stakeholders, including members of the editorial board and members of the global information systems community. The review suggests that the journal is perceived to “be broader in its outlook, more receptive to different methodological and epistemological traditions followed within the IS community and (having) an editorial board that represents the multi-disciplinary nature of the field.” The journal has been commended for its breadth, comprehensiveness, and rigor. More significantly, most respondents applauded the journal’s timeliness of reviews and the constructiveness with which the comments are being provided for improving the papers. On the other

hand, because of a desire to see the journal improve its performance, we can do as follows:

1. Enhance the publication of qualitative and interpretive research, particularly by broadening the editorial board.
2. Increase the willingness to support innovative research that breaks new ground.
3. Consider the adoption of a “double-blind” review process.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of alternative editorial structures (e.g., a two-tier structure in place at journals such as *Organization Science*).

Clearly, there is a need to address these issues, and I have given serious thought to these issues and how the journal might address them. After consulting with the Senior Editors, I will be making changes at the beginning of the next year and will announce them at that time. I do want to thank the members of the community for taking their time and sharing their insights about the journal.

Annual Performance

Table 1 shows the volume of manuscripts received at the journal and their disposition. New submissions are projected to reach about 300 by the end of the year. Out of this total of new submissions, about 30 manuscripts were received for a special issue in June. The continued high levels of submission volumes speak to the strong interest in *Information Systems Research* as a journal of choice within the information systems community.

The acceptance rate for 2007 is about 14% and is higher than the 8% acceptance rate from last year.

Table 1 Manuscript Flow

	2007					2006				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Submissions	117	171	114	21	423	104	104	179	95	482
New	61	114	64	10	249	78	75	145	63	361
1st revision	31	36	21	2	90	18	19	16	18	71
2nd revision	13	12	25	5	55	4	8	14	10	36
3rd revision	10	6	4	3	23	2	1	4	4	11
4th revision	2	2	0	1	5	2	1	0	0	3
5th revision	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Accept	12	14	9	0	35	8	4	5	4	21
Revise and resubmit	33	55	27	17	132	36	34	63	41	174
Reject	59	77	60	26	222	51	58	106	46	261

During the past two years, the journal has seen a significant growth in submissions, and now acceptances are beginning to climb. Compared to 21 acceptances last year, the journal has accepted 35 papers so far in 2007. The current acceptance rate is closer to the target rate for the journal, and it will be our goal to uphold this acceptance rate into the future. At this point, after publishing 23 articles in 2007, the journal has 19 papers accepted and awaiting publication. By the end of the year, another 8 to 10 papers will likely be accepted for publication. Therefore, the journal will have accepted about 25 to 30 papers for publication in 2007. In addition, the submission levels to the journal appear to be stabilizing at around 300 submissions annually. On the basis of these submission and acceptance volumes, I had requested that the Board of Directors of INFORMS allocate additional pages for 2008 and beyond. I am delighted to announce that the journal has been given an additional 80 pages (about 5 to 6 articles) for publication next year. Further, INFORMS is introducing a new feature, called "Articles in Advance," in which electronic preprints of the papers will be published as the papers are accepted and awaiting publication in the print version. This program will accelerate the dissemination of accepted articles for citation and reference by other scholars.

Table 2 shows the cycle times for review of the submissions at different stages. New submissions involve the assignment of a Senior Editor (by the Editor-in-Chief), selection of an associate editor, solicitation of reviewers, submission of reviews, development of an associate editor recommendation, and a decision by the Senior Editor. The cycle times have been favorably

viewed by the authors and have been responsible for the growth in submissions. Further, the overall time from initial submission of a manuscript to its final acceptance is around 18 to 20 months, with an average of 3 rounds of review for the accepted papers. Note that authors are given about 6 months to complete each one of their revisions (first and second revision) and 3 months to complete their third revision.

Among the other notable achievements for the journal is the rise in its impact factor. The latest impact factor is about 2.53. This compares favorably with that of other peer-reviewed journals.

Editorial Transitions

Three of the Senior Editors on the board are completing their term and are rotating off the board: Ritu Agarwal (University of Maryland), Laurie Kirsch (University of Pittsburgh), and Sumit Sarkar (University of Texas, Dallas). They have been tremendous for the journal and have shepherded many submissions toward publishability. Each one of these Senior Editors has set high standards for the role, and it will be difficult to replace them. However, I am sure that they will welcome the opportunity to devote their time and energy to other scholarly pursuits, including reviewing for the journal! I thank them for their service to the journal and for their contributions toward its growth and vitality. They will continue to handle revisions of the papers that they were initially assigned until they are done.

One of the significant strengths of a premier journal such as *Information Systems Research* is the caliber

Table 2 Cycle Times

Version	2007					2006				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
New submission	17.3	86.7	95.6	115.5	78.8	114.6	108.8	90.2	122.4	109.0
1st revision	130.2	113.2	105.6	125.0	118.5	109.2	109.1	122.4	113.1	113.4
2nd revision	80.5	56.0	53.8	72.6	65.7	57.7	69.0	74.3	96.9	74.5
3rd revision	24.4	27.3	24.0	36.0	27.9		1.0	16.0	45.0	20.7
4th revision	17.0	0.0				25.0	6.0			

of its associate editors and their dedication and commitment to the goals of the journal. However, editorial work is quite demanding and taxing. Editorial transitions are meant to ensure that Associate Editors earn well-deserved breaks and get an opportunity to channel their valuable time in other scholarly pursuits, including submitting papers to *Information Systems Research*! However, saying goodbye is never easy. The following Associate Editors have done a yeoman job in upholding the high standards of the journal and will now transition off the board:

Laku Chidambaram, University of Oklahoma
Tom Ferratt, University of Dayton
Robert Fichman, Boston College
Dennis Galletta, University of Pittsburgh
Ann Majchrzak, University of Southern California
Brian Pentland, Michigan State University
Hemant Jain, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Viswanath Venkatesh, University of Arkansas
Tunay Tunca, Stanford University

Vijay Mookerjee, University of Texas, Dallas
Alok Gupta, University of Minnesota
Ramayya Krishnan, Carnegie Mellon University
Akhil Kumar, Penn State University
Olivia Sheng, University of Utah

I have personally observed the hard work and dedication of this group and know that they will be missed. Although they will no longer handle new manuscripts, they will continue as Associate Editor Emeriti and work on revisions of papers that they had initially handled.

A new group of associate editors will be appointed soon; their names will be announced shortly.

Acknowledgments

Many reviewers have contributed their efforts toward the evaluation of submissions to the journal. Their names appear at the end of this issue as a token of thanks and acknowledgment. Finally, Cindy Kindel, Managing Editor, and Pankaj Setia, Assistant Editor, deserve many thanks for all the support they have provided in the editorial office.