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Editorial Notes

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Editorial Notes

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The performance of the journal is reviewed and metrics for 2009 are presented. In addition, key editorial transitions are highlighted.

Key words: annual performance; senior editors; editorial transitions

This issue marks the completion of another successful year for the journal. In 2009 there has been a continued and vigorous growth in the number of submissions, as well as acceptances, as shown in Table 1. New submissions continue to remain at about 300 annually. Of this total of new submissions, about 35 manuscripts were received in June for a special issue on healthcare scheduled for publication in 2011. The continued high levels of submissions speak to the strong interest in *Information Systems Research* as a journal of choice within the information systems community.

The acceptance rate continues to be about 15%. As a result of the significant increase in submissions, the journal has accumulated a backlog of more than 40 articles accepted and awaiting publication. Effectively, this has meant a two-year backlog. As a result, a request has been made to the INFORMS Board of Directors for an extra allocation of about 200 pages annually to significantly reduce the backlog in 2010, and this request has been approved. The Information Systems Society (ISS) has also agreed to fund an additional 100 pages in 2010. These extra pages will significantly reduce the backlog and expand the number of articles published in the journal. Many of the accepted articles are already available in “*Articles in Advance*,” INFORMS’ publish-before-print program. This will accelerate the dissemination of the 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 approximately 18–20 months, with an average of three rounds of review for the accepted papers. Note that authors are given about six months for completing each one of their revisions (first and second revision) and three months for completing their third revision.

Special Issues

The journal continues to commission special issues on topics of importance to the information systems community. During this year, the September issue published seven articles on “Flexible and Distributed Information Systems Development.” The guest editors were Sandra Slaughter (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Brian Fitzgerald (University of Limerick), who were assisted by Pär J. Ågerfalk, associate guest editor.

The fourth special issue, Digital Systems and Competition, is underway. The guest editors are Walt Ferrier (University of Kentucky), Clyde Holsapple (University of Kentucky), and Rajiv Sabherwal (University of Missouri, St. Louis). About 11 manuscripts are currently being evaluated in the second round of review. Earlier, about 40 papers were received as initial submissions. After the first round of reviews,

Table 1 Manuscript Flow

	2009 (up to October)				2008				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Total submissions	158	113	113	384	132	139	116	77	464
New	115	69	73	257	81	95	78	44	298
1st revision	23	29	24	76	29	14	15	20	78
2nd revision	7	10	10	27	17	15	13	10	55
3rd revision	13	4	6	23	4	12	6	2	24
4th revision	0	1	0	1	1	3	3	1	8
5th revision	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Accept	20	12	5	37	24	31	19	13	80
Revise and resubmit	38	20	1	59	47	35	33	25	126
Reject	98	41	17	156	61	73	64	39	198
In process	2	40	90	132	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2 Cycle Times

Submission type	2009				2008				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Overall	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall
New	89.9	73.0	20.4	80.5	101.5	122.6	109.9	107.1	111.2
1st revision	116.1	113.9	19	112.4	107.2	104.3	153.5	107.7	115.7
2nd revision	88.7	64.9	49	74.3	83.8	70.8	64.7	86.5	76.2
3rd revision	34.5	24.3	14.7	29.5	41	51.2	29.3	16	41.1

these 11 papers were selected and invited for further discussion and sharing at a workshop hosted at the Lally School of Management, RPI. The final accepted papers are scheduled to be published in September 2010.

The fifth special issue on the topic of The Role of IT in Health-Care Organizations is currently underway. The guest editors for this special issue are Rob Fichman (Boston College), Rajiv Kohli (College of William and Mary), and Ranjani Krishnan (Michigan State University). This special issue received nearly 40 submissions, and they have been evaluated through the first round. A subset of these papers has been invited for further review after the revisions are made. These papers were presented and discussed recently at a Special Issue Workshop hosted by Boston College in September 2009; this issue will be published in September 2011.

Editorial Board Transitions

The editorial board continues to play a critical role in achieving the journal's goals of being the outlet of choice by providing timely and constructive reviews and by attracting manuscripts on a wide variety of

topics. The Senior Editors and the Associate Editors reflect the breadth and diversity of the research interests in the information systems field.

However, the service on the editorial board is demanding. As a result, most appointments are limited to a three-year term, and only a few editors are reappointed. Two of the Senior Editors, M. S. Krishnan (University of Michigan) and Arun Rai (Georgia State University) have completed their terms and are rotating off the board. Their places are being taken by Rob Fichman (Boston College) and Arun Sundararajan (New York University). In addition, Michael Smith (Carnegie Mellon University) has also joined the board as an additional Senior Editor.

Thirteen Associate Editors are also rotating off the board. 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 handle revisions of the papers that they had initially handled. They deserve thanks for their service to the journal and the IS community.

The outgoing Associate Editors are as follows:

- Indranil Bardhan, University of Texas, Dallas
- Pei-Yu Chen, Temple University
- Sung Kim, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Natalia Levina, New York University
- Anne Massey, Indiana University
- Victoria Mitchell, University of Calgary
- Gautam Ray, University of Minnesota
- Katherine Stewart, University of Maryland
- Kar Yan Tam, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Rahul Telang, Carnegie Mellon University
- Hock Hai Teo, National University of Singapore
- Youngjin Yoo, Temple University
- Mariam F. Zahedi, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Their places are being taken by other equally deserving and well-respected scholars in information systems. The incoming Associate Editors are:

- Michel Avital, University of Amsterdam
- Ravi Bapna, University of Minnesota
- Sudip Bhattacharjee, University of Connecticut
- Anandasivam Gopal, University of Maryland
- Karthik Kannan, Purdue University
- Dong-Gil Ko, University of Cincinnati

- Emmanuel Momod, Dauphine University
- Shan Lin Pan, National University of Singapore
- Maytal Saar-Tsechansky, University of Texas, Austin
- James Thong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Weidong Xia, Florida International University

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I wish to acknowledge the Dean of the Eli Broad Graduate School of Business for providing generous support for the editorial office (about \$35–\$40 K). Without this level of support, it would not have been possible to operate a fully functional editorial office consisting of a Managing Editor and an Editorial Assistant. In addition, the INFORMS Board of Directors has been generous in supporting the needs of the journal and continues to deserve thanks.

This year, this financial support has particularly enabled the Editor-in-Chief to undertake trips to Asia (including Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and Singapore) to participate in workshops and conferences and promote both the journal and high-quality research. Similar trips have also begun to Europe. As more schools around the world raise their research standards and expectations, there is a stronger desire to submit papers to *Information Systems Research*. My trips are aimed at helping prospective authors understand how to write for the journal, as well as how the review and editorial processes operate.

Annual Awards

The journal provides recognition to authors, reviewers, and editorial board members through awards that are sponsored by the Information Systems Society. These include the Best Published Paper award, Best Reviewer award, and the Best Associate Editor awards. Recipients of the award are recognized at the Society's luncheon at the INFORMS Annual

Meeting. The winners of the awards this year include the following:

Best Published Paper (Co-Winners)

- J. Kuruzovich, S. Viswanathan, R. Agarwal, S. Weitzman. 2008. Marketspace or marketplace? Online information search and channel outcomes in auto retailing. **19**(2) 182–201.
- J.-Y. Moon, L. S. Sproull. 2008. The role of feedback in managing the Internet-based volunteer work force. **19**(4) 494–515.

Best Published Paper (Runner-Up)

- G. Kane, M. Alavi. 2008. Casting the net: A multimodal perspective on user system interactions. **19**(3) 255–272.

Best Reviewer Award

- Jungpil Hahn, Purdue University
- Yuqing Ren, University of Minnesota

Best Associate Editor Award

- Chris Forman, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Giri Tayi, State University of New York at Albany
- Amrit Tiwana, Iowa State University

The winners of the awards were selected through a process of nomination by the Associate Editors of the journal and a final assessment by the Senior Editors. The awards were given at the luncheon hosted by the Information Systems Society at the INFORMS Annual Meeting for 2008 in Washington DC in October. Congratulations to all of the winners.

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 Matt Wimble, Editorial Assistant, deserve many thanks for all the support they provide in the editorial office.