



## Information Systems Research

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### Editorial Notes

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# Editorial Notes

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*Information Systems Research* will have a new editorial structure, with several senior editors who will be responsible for the overall management of submitted manuscripts and have final decision-making authority on their disposition. I will act as editor-in-chief and will continue to handle manuscripts, but, with less time needed to spend on handling manuscripts, I will be able to devote my energies to improving the operations of *ISR*, fundraising, and starting new initiatives to make *ISR* a more interesting and valuable journal for the information systems community.

What is the reason for this change, and why now? During my interview with the new editor selection committee, the members asked my opinion of such a new editorial structure. I told them that I was in favor of it and sensed that they believed that it would benefit the journal. With about 150 new submissions a year (and a steady increase over the last few years), and given our editorial philosophy to serve the wide spectrum of the information systems community, it is clear that the editor-in-chief needs the assistance and support of experts in the field. This is both in managing the volume of submissions and resubmissions and, more importantly, with the expertise needed to evaluate the different research topics and methods reflected in these submissions. Thus, the expectation is to have a faster turnaround time and more informed comments for the authors.

Rather than initiating the new structure upon becoming editor-in-chief, I followed the advice given by John King, my predecessor, that first I should get a strong sense of the operations of the journal. Now that the electronic review system is running smoothly and there are experienced staff members to assist me, I believe this is a good time to switch to a new structure.

The senior editors will not be assigned to a particular "department." This will allow us to have a more flexible structure with the option to add new editors with

new and different types of expertise when needed. I believe this is appropriate, given the constantly changing nature of the information systems field, and to give our prospective authors the assurance that we are trying to be more inclusive than exclusive in terms of our coverage. The authors will have the option of nominating a senior editor, or me, to handle the paper, as well as suggesting the names of associate editors and reviewers.

Since this editorial is written a few months prior to the publication of the September issue, it is likely that an announcement would have been made about this new scheme already in an electronic mail message. This is an interesting aspect of the rigid publication structure and built in delays of a nonelectronic journal!

Geneviève Bassellier, a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia, is now the managing editor of *Information Systems Research*. Janice Doyle, who served as my assistant since the journal moved to the University of British Columbia in early March 1999, took a new job in July. I would like to thank Janice very much for her valuable support at a time when I was learning how to manage the journal. Geneviève, who has been special assistant to the editor since I took over, has contributed significantly to the switch to a new fully-integrated electronic review system. She has also contributed to the development of our webpages and database systems, as well as supported Janice. Therefore, this transition has been an easy one.

To give you an idea of our performance and turnaround times, I examined the statistics on submissions and review times for the 12-month period ending July 15, 2000. We received 142 new papers. About 24% were rejected, by either an associate editor or myself, without being sent out for review. For about 19% of the submissions, the authors were asked to revise and resubmit prior to sending the paper to reviewers. Of the

manuscripts sent out to review, 29% were rejected, and 28% were invited for resubmission after revision. It took about 110 days on average to get back to the authors after the review process. Though the statistics on the resubmissions are based on a small sample of 18, about half of these papers were rejected after the second cycle of reviews, and the rest were either accepted or receive a request for further revisions.

Three members of our editorial board, Dan Robey, Susan Leigh Star, and Chris Westland will be stepping down in September. They have assisted *ISR* senior editors over many years and I thank them very much for their support. Congratulations to Dan Robey who has been appointed the new editor-in-chief of *Accounting, Management and Information Technologies* (AMIT). I welcome three new associate editors: Anitesh Barua, University of Texas at Austin, Donna L. Hoffman, Vanderbilt University, and Sumit Sircar, University of Texas at Arlington.

In the June 2000 issue, *ISR* inaugurated a series of invited research commentaries by members of the in-

formation systems community on important emerging and as yet unresolved core research issues in their areas of expertise. Due to scheduling problems we will not have a commentary in this issue, but will continue with a paper by Salvatore March, Alan Hevner, and Sudha Ram titled "An Agenda for Information Technology Research in Heterogeneous and Distributed Environments" in December.

Several months ago *ISR* issued a call for a special issue on "Electronic Commerce Metrics." The goal of this special issue is to stimulate empirical research and theoretical development so that knowledge about the measurement of electronic commerce activities may advance. Detailed information is available at (<http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca/call.html>). I would like to remind prospective authors that the deadline for submitting papers to the special issue is December 31, 2000. Please contact one of the special issue editors, Detmar Straub, Donna Hoffman, Charles Steinfield, or Bruce Weber if you have any questions about the suitability of your manuscript.