



Information Systems Research

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

Editorial Notes

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To cite this article:

Izak Benbasat <http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca>, (2000) Editorial Notes. Information Systems Research 11(4):i-ii. <https://doi.org/10.1287/isre.11.4.0.11870>

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Editorial Notes

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ISR recently implemented a new editorial structure with five senior editors, Sirkka Jarvenpaa (University of Texas at Austin), Sal March (Vanderbilt University), Tridas Mukhopadhyay (Carnegie Mellon University), Geoff Walsham (University of Cambridge), and Bob Zmud (University of Oklahoma), to work with our associate editors and decide on the disposition of submitted manuscripts. I will continue as editor-in-chief and handle manuscripts. However, with less time needed to spend on this task, I will be able to devote my energies to improve the operations of *ISR*, manage fundraising, and start new initiatives to make *ISR* a more interesting and valuable journal for the information systems community.

I have observed that many business schools have lists of top scholarly journals they employ to judge the quality of the work of those who are candidates for promotion and tenure. *ISR* consistently ranks high on such lists prepared by information systems departments. This is gratifying but also places a major responsibility on all of us, as editors and reviewers. This responsibility has two aspects: We need to maintain the high quality of *ISR* not only by acting as "critics" but also as "supporters" who provide helpful comments to authors for improving their work expeditiously because many of our colleagues are facing tenure-clock deadlines. With a steady increase in submissions over the last few years, and given our editorial philosophy to serve the wide spectrum of the information systems community, I expect that the new editorial structure will help us handle the review cycle faster, and more importantly, provide the deep expertise needed to assist our colleagues.

ISR is given a budget by its publisher, INFORMS, for the maximum number of pages it can publish in a year, which is equivalent to a total of approximately 25 papers a year. Currently, we have about a dozen

papers waiting to be published. To both get more papers in print to showcase the best work in information systems and reduce the delays from acceptance to publishing, we need additional funding to increase our page allocation. We also need to limit the number of pages of submitted papers in a reasonable way. You will note that our submission instructions (<http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca/submission.html>) have clearly specified page limits but, unfortunately, not many who submit their work adhere to them.

As I mentioned several times in my editorials, *ISR* is an academic journal that serves the information systems community, broadly defined. The senior editors and I will continue to support this mission. However, we need an anchor that holds the journal together and gives it a sense of cohesion; this has to be more than service as an outlet for the highest quality scholarly research in information systems. One strategy we are pursuing is to provide research directions for the information systems community via research commentaries on important emerging, and as yet unresolved, core research issues of the discipline. The second commentary in this series titled "An Agenda for Information Technology Research in Heterogeneous and Distributed Environments" by Salvatore March, Alan Hevner, and Sudha Ram appears in this issue. I would like to hear from our readers about the value of these commentaries and what topics they are interested in reading about in future issues. Also, I would like to solicit your views on how to make *ISR* a more *proactive* journal to guide the discipline and provide knowledge that is future, rather than past, focused.

Six of our associate editors, Joey George, Rebecca Grant, Donna Hoffman, Jiro Kokuryo, Nancy VanHouse, and JoAnne Yates, will be stepping down at the end of the year. Many of them have served on the board tirelessly for a long time, and some have asked

to step down to attend to other major administrative responsibilities. I thank them all for the support they have given my predecessors and me, and I wish them well in their careers. I am pleased to inform you that Matthew Jones (University of Cambridge), Michael D. Myers (University of Auckland), Ivan Png (National University of Singapore), Arun Rai (Georgia State Uni-

versity), and Leslie Willcocks (University of Oxford) have joined our editorial board. Shortly, we will post information on the *ISR* web page about the research interests and expertise of our associate editors to make it easier for those submitting papers to nominate the appropriate persons as associate editor(s).