



Information Systems Research

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

Editorial Notes

Izak Benbasat <http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca/>,

To cite this article:

Izak Benbasat <http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca/>, (2002) Editorial Notes. Information Systems Research 13(1):iii-iv.
<https://doi.org/10.1287/isre.13.1.0.91>

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://pubsonline.informs.org/Publications/Librarians-Portal/PubsOnLine-Terms-and-Conditions>

This article may be used only for the purposes of research, teaching, and/or private study. Commercial use or systematic downloading (by robots or other automatic processes) is prohibited without explicit Publisher approval, unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact permissions@informs.org.

The Publisher does not warrant or guarantee the article's accuracy, completeness, merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement. Descriptions of, or references to, products or publications, or inclusion of an advertisement in this article, neither constitutes nor implies a guarantee, endorsement, or support of claims made of that product, publication, or service.

© 2002 INFORMS

Please scroll down for article—it is on subsequent pages



With 12,500 members from nearly 90 countries, INFORMS is the largest international association of operations research (O.R.) and analytics professionals and students. INFORMS provides unique networking and learning opportunities for individual professionals, and organizations of all types and sizes, to better understand and use O.R. and analytics tools and methods to transform strategic visions and achieve better outcomes. For more information on INFORMS, its publications, membership, or meetings visit <http://www.informs.org>

Editorial Notes

Izak Benbasat

Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, University of British Columbia,
Canada V6T 1Z2
isr@commerce.ubc.ca
<http://isr.commerce.ubc.ca/>

This is my last editorial with which I will have the pleasure of addressing the readers of *Information Systems Research* as Editor-in-Chief, before I pass on the leadership of the journal to my successor Chris Kemerer.

The special issue of *ISR* on "Measuring e-Commerce in Net-Enabled Organizations" is going to appear in two parts as the June and September 2002 issues. I would like to thank the editors of the special issue, Detmar Straub, Donna Hoffman, Charles Steinfield, and Bruce Weber, very much for working with the authors to put together an excellent collection of papers that will have a significant impact on e-commerce research in IS. This is the third special issue that *ISR* has published in its 13 years of operation. The volume of papers received put an additional burden on our operations. If you experienced delays when submitting your work, I apologize. I hope that the quality of the special issue will make up for the inconvenience.

My tenure as Editor-in-Chief has been a period of evolution rather than revolution for *ISR*. The journal adopted an electronic reviewing system for reasons of efficiency. A series of invited research commentaries was established for providing guidance to IS scholars about promising research projects, including the paper by Basu and Kumar on "Workflow Management Issues in e-Business," which appears in this issue. Significant renewal was brought to the associate editorial board by inviting leading IS researchers to join the editorial team. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the associate editors who I have worked with over the last three years for their excellent work and contributions to *ISR*. Most importantly, the diversity goal of *ISR* was formalized by the establishment of a senior editorial team consisting of five well known senior researchers, with many years of editorial experience, who are responsible for the overall management of the manuscripts submitted and had the final decision making authority on their disposition. I extend my sincere

appreciation and gratitude to my 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), for agreeing to serve the IS community and doing so with distinction.

My editorial support team at the University of British Columbia has been invaluable since the day I agreed to serve as Editor-in-Chief. Geneviève Bassellier served as my first managing editor and coordinated the many different activities of the review process. Janice Doyle served as my first secretarial assistant, followed by Sati Muthanna. Samson Hui, Joshua Slive, and Geneviève worked on the various phases of the design and improvement of the electronic review and database system. Ronald T. Cenfetelli took over Geneviève's position as managing editor during the last year of my tenure and, among his other duties, helped with the transition of *ISR* to the University of Pittsburgh. I thank them all very much for their support.

I would have not been able to take on the responsibilities of Editor-in-Chief without the support of the University of British Columbia. I would like to thank Dr. Bernard Bressler, Vice President Research at the time, for providing me with the partial teaching release time to be able to work for *ISR*. I also thank my colleague, Dr. Derek Atkins, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration, who kindly provided *ISR* with the office space needed.

It was a pleasure to partner with the superb management and publications team at INFORMS, Kathy Long, Candita Gerzevitz, Midori Baer-Price, and Molly O'Donnell, who were instrumental in converting the accepted manuscripts into the high-quality journal that you receive every quarter. I also appreciate the support and encouragement of Dr. William P. Pierskalla, INFORMS Vice President of Publications.

One of the most difficult parts of this job is writing “rejection” letters to authors. *ISR*, like many other top journals, has a low acceptance rate. Thus, an editor, more often than not, reluctantly has to tell many of his or her colleagues in the IS community that research studies that they have spent so much effort on cannot be accepted for publication. What is the major reason for doing so? When preparing this editorial I reread John King’s (my predecessor) last editorial. John observed that when he took over as Editor-in-Chief in 1993 the main reason for rejecting manuscripts was poor use of “methods”; in 1997 it became “insufficient contributions.” I concur with his assessment. IS researchers, on average, have a strong portfolio of research skills, be it a positivist or interpretive approach, which is an outcome of the better training provided by our doctoral programs. What is also needed is a way for us to figure out what is “new and interesting,” a skill that is not that easily taught, and made more difficult due to a lack of an agreed upon agenda of key research issues that the community should focus on. This problem is compounded by the wide diversity of topics of interest in our discipline. The research commentaries that appeared in *ISR* were intended to provide guidance in identifying “new and interesting” topics. I believe that this issue is worthy of further discussion at one of our academic conferences.

Lastly, I am concerned with the issue of quality versus quantity in the portfolio of IS scholarly journals. It is a fact that we have a proliferation of journals in the IS (and related) academic communities, with the field of e-commerce being the prime example. However, we have very few journals that are rated by the IS community, and our colleagues in the business administration community as a whole, to be in the “A” or “A plus” category, whether perceived or real. This is a real worry because with the increase in the number of competent IS scholars and the volume of quality research output, we have to increase the portfolio of top IS journals so that our best work is concentrated and showcased in these top journals, rather than being dissipated in a large number of IS journals or in the journals of our reference disciplines. This, I believe, is important for the way the contributions of the IS community are best viewed by our sister disciplines.

It has been my privilege to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *ISR*. Once again, I extend my appreciation to the many authors, reviewers, and editorial board members who have contributed to our collective success. *ISR*, thanks to them, is in a strong position with a high submission rate of top quality research papers and a reasonable inventory of manuscripts in the publication queue. I congratulate Chris Kemerer for being appointed as the next Editor-in-Chief, and I wish him a successful tenure at the helm.