

## Editor's Comment

This issue ends a year of growth and change for the *MIS Quarterly*. Substantial increases in subscriptions and paper submissions are only the most obvious indicators; some qualitative measures are perhaps even more important.

First, we have been able to climb out of the "hand-to-mouth" editorial existence that forced the late production of the first two issues under my editorship in 1983. Since the September 1983 issue, each issue has been mailed on the planned date, and each should have been received by subscribers early in the month indicated on the cover.

More significantly, I am happy to report that we have a backlog of accepted papers that finds us working three issues ahead of the current one. This means that the editorial staff can devote full attention to ensuring that each issue is of the highest possible quality and that each contains a rich mix of papers.

I consider our current position to be ideal, and I have therefore turned my attention to the (happier) problems associated with the potential of having too great a backlog of accepted papers. Fortunately, SIM, MISRC, and the Editorial Advisory Board have seen fit to ameliorate this situation by approving expansion of each issue to six articles (from the current five) in 1985.

This has been, and will continue to be, accomplished within the framework of the journal's high quality standards. Indeed, the inflow of submitted papers that we have seen in the last two years, in my judgment, continues to increase significantly in quality.

As well, many other important changes have occurred in 1984. The *MIS Quarterly* was accepted for listing in the *Social Science Citation Index* as well as in a variety of other important indices. These listings will serve to make the journal more visible and more accessible to researchers and to practitioners who are not subscribers. (These indices are now listed inside the front cover of each issue.)

We have also instituted some editorial procedural changes that have been very positively received. Now, all reviewers and editors are sent feedback so that they have more information about the eventual results concerning papers that they have reviewed. In the case of reviewers, each is being sent copies of all other reviews so that each can make comparisons of his/her reviews with those of others. Editors are also now being sent information about the final disposition of papers that they have reviewed. I believe that these procedures serve to make the journal's reviewing and editing work more interesting, more meaningful, and more of a learning experience for all.

In this past year, I, along with the relevant section and departmental editors of *Management Science* and the *Communications of the ACM*, have begun to circulate lists of submitted papers among the three journals. This should enable us to address the problem of multiple simultaneous submissions to a better degree than has been possible in the past.

The content changes in the *Quarterly* this past year have included the institution of an "Issues and Opinions" feature that will appear from time-to-time (see the March and June, 1984 issues), and the "DSS in Organizations" series that began in June, 1984 and which continues in this issue. Format changes, such as the inclusion of authors' addresses on the title page of each article, have also been made to "add value."

Beginning with the next volume (Volume 9, 1985) the *Quarterly* will accept announcements of relevant conferences on a paid basis. This should enhance the communications role of the journal as well as provide good promotion for important conferences. The *Quarterly* will also accept position advertisements for executive-level IS positions and for IS academic positions from four-year institutions of higher learning. (Conference organizers and other interested parties should contact the Managing Editor for rates and other information concerning the criteria for acceptance. Acceptance of all advertisements and announcements will be solely at the discretion of the journal.)

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We have also instituted a student subscription rate of \$20/year (U.S.) and \$30/year (foreign). Anyone enrolled full-time in a college or university program may subscribe by sending a check in that amount along with verification of student status (such as a paid fee statement) to the Publication Office at the University of Minnesota.

Other changes are also being considered as a result of a rather comprehensive survey of authors, editors, and readers that was conducted in the late summer. So, the winds of change will probably continue to blow next year.

However, my sense of accomplishment and excitement in our continuing growth and progress is dampened by the fact that the terms of seven members of the Editorial Board expire with this issue. Eric Carlson of Convergent Technologies and Jim Scott of Proctor and Gamble have been extremely dedicated and diligent Consulting Editors, and I will feel their loss in both a professional and a personal sense. Peter Mather will also be retiring to assume the responsibilities of President-Elect for SIM. Our "retiring" Associate Editors, Benn Konsynski of Arizona, Eph McLean of UCLA, Jim Senn of Georgia State, and Bye Wynne of Arthur Andersen have each rendered distinguished service and similarly deserve thanks on behalf of the IS community.

As we approach another year in these exciting times in which we are privileged to live and work, I hope that the *MIS Quarterly* continues to grow, to prosper, and to better serve its various constituencies.

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