

Editorial Preview

As our regular readers have undoubtedly noticed, the format of the *MIS Quarterly* has been upgraded. The new cover design and the use of a "perfect" binding is appropriate in that with this issue we begin our sixth year of publication. The first five years can be characterized by a good deal of dedication by our staff, editors, and reviewers, and by a degree of success that is gratifying to those who have worked so hard to provide the MIS area with a quality journal. We trust that our new "image" reflects a certain amount of maturity in the journal.

This issue contains five articles, three in the Application section and two in Theory and Research. The first application article is by Benn Konsynski and Lynne Bracker of the University of Arizona. This article addresses an analytical tool useful for the design of office information systems. A case study illustrates the use of the tool. The second article reports the results of a survey of the SMIS membership conducted by Leslie Ball and Richard Harris. The survey results deal primarily with membership demographics and attitudes. The third article in the section is by Justus D. Naumann and Shailendra Palvia and is on the subject of selecting system development tools. A specific method is suggested and a report is made concerning the application of the method in an actual situation.

The first article in the Theory and Research section is by Kate Kaiser and William King. The topic under study is the user liaison function. The article reports the results of a study involving thirty-eight large organizations. The final article in this issue is by John Chandler from the University of Illinois. He describes a framework for evaluating information systems performance from both the user and system viewpoints. A goal programming approach is taken in the evaluation process.

Gary W. Dickson
Senior Editor