

Editorial Preview

The first issue of our fourth year of operation is weighted heavily toward applications articles with four in this category and one in the Theory and Research section. Our regular readers may have noted that we have begun to publish more material dealing with decision support systems. This issue contains an article by Barbosa and Hirko from the IBM Research Laboratory, which describes the use of an algorithm imbedded within the GADS DSS. We began publishing material concerning GADS in our first issue; thus, it is satisfying to continue to follow enhancements to this system. A useful feature of this article is that it gives experience based guidelines for those wishing to integrate algorithms into decision support systems.

The second article, by Schonberger of the University of Nebraska, addresses the issues associated with designing information systems. Several approaches are described and it is argued that the use of a particular approach depends upon the situation. Those wishing to promote better information systems designs may wish to circulate this article to information systems middle managers and project leaders.

As the Senior Editor is responsible for the contents of this journal, the articles by Benbasat, Dexter, and Mantha (University of British Columbia and Laval University) and by Cheney and Lyons (Iowa State University and the Naval Postgraduate School) provided a dilemma. Since the articles both survey the skill requirements for data processing personnel, the issue was whether to publish one or both. I decided to do the latter and let our readers compare results and conclusions. These articles are comparable because a Minnesota study, in which I was involved, was used as a basis in both studies. I think data processing management will find the results and analysis to be of interest, especially regarding training and career pathing.

The Theory and Research article by Firth of Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand represents a type of research having much promise for developing underlying knowledge in the area of management information systems. An experiment was conducted to examine whether different information treatments affected managers' evaluations of subordinates' performances. The treatments did. The results are of significant personal interest since they support many of the findings previously generated at the University of Minnesota's MIS Research Center (your friendly publisher).

**GARY W. DICKSON
SENIOR EDITOR**