Editorial Preview

This issue contains three "finalist" articles from the SMIS paper competition. The first, by Davis, is a discussion of the evolution of a decision support system (DSS) in use by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The second article by Fowler describes design criteria and implementation of a DSS in the area of health care delivery. McNeil's article also comes from the health care information systems area and is a case study in MIS development/implementation. The SMIS paper Review Committee commended all of these articles.

The other two articles in this issue are also applications oriented. McLean presents a topic of significant future impact, at least in a technological sense. This is the application systems creation by end users, *e.g.,* managers. Those of you working in an organization with a highly centralized systems development function, which is certainly common, should read this article and begin to think in new terms. Davis and Wetherbe's article is related to many of the same issues. This article deals with distributed systems in an organizational/user context. Both these articles were recommended as highly relevant for MIS managers by our reviewers.

Since this is the final issue in Volume 3, I would again like to thank our editorial staff and our reviewers, listed at the end of the issue. I especially commend the Associate Editors who have a very demanding job. They must receive reviewer comments, write recommendations for authors' revisions, and then work with the authors to see that revisions are adequately made.

We will be expanding the editorial staff in view of the demands on Associate Editors and this should help manuscript turnaround. It also should contribute to the life expectancy of our current Associate Editors. Finally, we do desperately need more reviewers. It is not a difficult or time consuming task so we urge readers to volunteer. Remember, the quality and timeliness of the **MIS Quarterly** is highly influenced by our review staff. If you can help us by reviewing, please volunteer.

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GARY W. DICKSON
SENIOR EDITOR

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