



The Theodore C. and Peggy L. Willoughby Monograph Series in Management Information Systems

The *MIS Quarterly* Special Issue on Information Systems Offshoring is funded by the Theodore C. and Peggy L. Willoughby Monograph Series. The monograph series was established by contributions and a bequest from Theodore (Ted) Willoughby. Ted had his first career in industry and his second career in academia. In 1968, he left industry and enrolled in the first cohort of doctoral students in the newly formed Management Information Systems graduate program in the business school at Minnesota (now named the Carlson School of Management). He completed his degree in 1971, the first of over 110 doctorates in MIS from the University of Minnesota as of mid-2008.

Dr. Willoughby's doctoral dissertation was titled "Needs, Interests, Reinforcer Patterns and Satisfaction of Data Processing Personnel." Shortly after graduation, he authored a survey article in ACM's *Computing Surveys* (4:4), 1972, pp. 241-249. During his academic career, he continued his research in MIS personnel. He was active in ACM's special interest group on computer personnel (SIGCPR). Although his research tended to focus on IS personnel, Ted had a broad interest in information systems as an organization function and information systems as an academic discipline. For example, he wrote on the education needs of personnel faced with the newly emerging environment of information technology.

Ted was a pioneer in an emerging academic discipline. He had a deeply felt commitment to building a strong intellectual base for the information systems academic discipline. He emphasized a need to assist the development of the discipline by disseminating scholarly work to academics in the field. He recognized that many topics in the field are inadequately represented in the scholarly literature because research and discussion on the topics are of interest primarily to scholars and therefore have a limited commercial market. The purpose of the Willoughby fund is to support publication and distribution of specialized research on topics that provide scholars with important research and reference materials. Dissemination of scholarly knowledge is also consistent with Peggy's interests and her Minnesota degree in journalism and mass communications.

This issue of the *MIS Quarterly* meets the objectives of the Willoughby fund. It is, in essence, a monograph published as a special issue of a leading academic journal. There is an important tie to the Willoughbys because the *MIS Quarterly* is owned by the University of Minnesota, Ted's and Peggy's alma mater. The topic of information systems offshoring is very important to both scholars and practitioners. Making a special issue brings together a set of articles on the topic. Publishing them in the *MIS Quarterly* and distributing them both in print and electronically means that the research will have wide, international distribution.

We expect the Theodore C. and Peggy L. Willoughby Monograph Fund to provide important, ongoing support for the distribution of scholarly knowledge in the field of management information systems. The original concept focused on monographs, but the emergence of the Internet and electronic publication has enlarged the possibilities for accomplishing the objectives outlined by Ted when he established the grant.

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