MIS Doctoral Dissertations: 1993-1994

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Each year the *MIS Quarterly* publishes a listing of MIS dissertations to provide an updated source index to the MIS dissertation literature. Abstracts of most of the dissertations will be found in Dissertation Abstracts, available in most university libraries and accessed through CD-ROM and online access search procedures. Dissertation abstract identification numbers are provided in the listing if available to us. The 500 to 1,000 word abstracts provide a short description of the research topic, methodology, and findings. Complete dissertations are available through University Microfilms:

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The process of locating dissertations considered to be MIS has, in past years, depended on a keyword search of dissertation titles in Dissertation Abstracts. This process was previously described and validated.[1] Beginning last year, dissertation titles were requested from doctoral programs in MIS based on the *MISRC/McGraw-Hill Directory of MIS Faculty* (in the United States and Canada). The search was expanded

for this listing by sending messages over the Internet through *INFOSYS* and *ISWorld*. The request was for dissertations in English. We are investigating the possibility of listing titles of dissertations not in English, but this was not done this time.

Future listings will be based on three eliciting and search processes: search of Dissertation Abstracts, eliciting submissions through an announcement on *INFOSYS, ISWorld,* and other networks; and requests to MIS groups known to produce MIS dissertations. The eliciting processes are required because the Dissertation Abstract search may not find some dissertations because the titles do not contain keywords used in the search, some schools are not included, many foreign universities are not included, and there are often substantial delays in publication of abstracts. About half of the dissertations listed this year were not found in the abstracts search for the above reasons. As always, individuals who find that their dissertations are not listed may submit the title for inclusion in the next year's list to:

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The cutoff dates for dissertations to be included have not been consistently handled in the past. Previously, some dissertations in the second half of the year were listed. This year, the announced period was July 1993 through June 1994. This fits the way dissertations are reported in Dissertation Abstracts. Dissertations missed in past listings are included without regard to the date. Twenty seven dissertations submitted for this listing that were completed after June 1994 will be included in the listing next June.

The list this year includes 151 dissertations. Of these, six were dated prior to July 1993. There are 19 dissertations from universities outside the U.S.A. and Canada (United Kingdom, Netherlands, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and

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1 Hamilton, S., Ives, B., and Davis, G.B. "MIS Doctoral Dissertations: 1973-1980," *MIS Quarterly* (5:2), June 1981, pp. 61-83.

Hong Kong). This data suggests the production of MIS doctorates in the United States and Canada is currently between 130 to 150 per year, taking into account dissertations missing from the list, changes in the cutoff for listing, and possible misclassifications.

One of the difficulties in preparing the list of dissertations has been to draw the boundary between MIS dissertations and dissertations that use the domain of MIS but are essentially outside the field. The general rules for inclusion are:

1. Dissertations in an established MIS program. The rule is based on the idea that MIS dissertations reflect what MIS programs and graduates taking MIS positions are doing.

2. Dissertations in programs that are not clearly defined as MIS, but some of their students are considered MIS and take MIS positions. Some dissertations from such groups may be excluded as being outside the domain of MIS.

3. Dissertations outside MIS groups that match the domain of MIS. They would be considered good MIS research if done within an MIS group. The reason for including them is because of the absence of MIS programs in some universities and because they are of interest to the MIS research community.

Generally excluded are dissertations that are primarily computer science, decision sciences, artificial intelligence, or applications of MIS in areas such as education, health care, etc., where the emphasis is on the application domain rather than MIS.

The listings in the *MIS Quarterly* began in 1981 with a list spanning the years 1973-1980. Yearly lists have been published thereafter. The MISRC, using an updating of a database originally prepared by Guy Gable, Queensland University of Technology, has prepared a working paper with the 21-year listing of MIS dissertations as published in the *MIS Quarterly.* To obtain the working paper and/or database, contact the MISRC.

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