

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of volume 4 of the Australian Journal of Information Systems. As Editor, I am pleased to report the on-going interest in the journal, both from authors and more recently from a number of international conferences who have kindly agreed to advertise the journal to their participants. In this issue we have 9 articles, 2 from Australia, 1 from Australia and Malaysia, 2 from the USA, and one each from Germany, the UK, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Our first paper - 'A Pattern-Oriented Approach to a Methodical Evaluation of Modeling Methods' - by Michael Amberg, Department of Business Information Systems, University of Bamberg, Germany - describes a pattern-oriented approach to evaluate modeling methods. Using a set of defined patterns, the strengths and weaknesses of modeling methods regarding methodical aspects can be identified.

The next paper - 'How Strategic are Strategic Information Systems?' - by David Avison, Department of Management, University of Southampton, UK, Alan Eardley, School of Computing, Staffordshire University, UK and Phillip Powell, Information Systems Research Unit Warwick Business School, UK - argues that many examples of strategic information systems reported in the literature are not sufficiently critical in determining whether the systems meet the generally accepted definition 'strategic. The paper examines eight information systems.

Akhilesh Bajaj and Sudha Ram, Department of MIS, University of Arizona, contribute a paper entitled - 'A Content Specification for Business Process Models'. This paper suggests that the problem with most process models is that ultimately the user need to integrate several models to completely represent the business process, and that in some cases business processes contain concepts not found in software processes. The paper presents an alternative model aimed at overcoming the problems of other techniques.

The next paper - 'Information Systems Success in Small and Medium Enterprises: An Evaluation by Australian Public Accountants' - by Dieter Fink, School of Management Information Systems, Edith Cowan University - examines the adoption of packaged software by SME's from the perspectives of user practices as well as design features. A number of important findings, including the need for better documentation and user education, are identified.

The next paper - 'Data Warehouse Architecture for DSS Applications' - by V.J. Anand and Himawan Gunadhi, Department of Decision Sciences, National University of Singapore - examines the integration of disparate databases into a single store. The authors provide a method for maintaining a data warehouse of current as well as historical data.

Trevor Moores and Ralph Champion, Department of Information Systems, City University of Hong Kong contribute a paper entitled - 'A Methodology for Measuring the Risk Associated with a Software Requirements Specification'. This paper presents a six step metrics based methodology which eliminates the use of subjective probability assessments. The authors show that the class of risks can be tailored to a given organization using a Delphi method.

Bonnie Nardi, Apple Research Laboratories, California, contributes a paper entitled - 'Concepts of Cognition and Consciousness: Four Voices'. This paper considers theories of cognition and consciousness in four traditions: neuroscience, cognitive science, activity theory and the distributed cognition approach.

The next paper is - 'Focusing Information Systems Post-Graduate Research Projects' - by Gail Ridley, Department of Computer Science, University of Tasmania. This paper reports on an investigation of mechanisms that assist Information Systems post-graduate research students to focus their projects and concludes that systematic expert review is considered by most students to be more effective than the doctoral consortium process.

The final paper in this issue is - 'A Partial Test and Development of Delone and McLean's Model of Success' - by Peter Seddon, Department of Information Systems, University of Melbourne and Min-Yen Kiew, Rating Agency, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This paper critically examines four of the six IS success constructs developed by Delone and McLean. The paper shows that factors such as Systems Quality, Information Quality and Usefulness are found to explain 75% of the variance in the User Satisfaction measure.

Once again I would like to pass on my thanks to the authors and consulting editors for the high quality of material in this issue. I would also like to thank David Dodds for his assistance in producing final copy of the journal and the maintenance of the Home page.

R. MacGregor

Editor

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