# EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of volume 2 of the Australian Journal of Information Systems (AJIS). I am pleased to announce that, over the last 6 months, there has been ongoing interest in the journal, both from subscribers and authors in the area of information systems. I am particularly pleased to mention that as editor of AJIS I have been asked to participate in a panel discussion at the upcoming ICIS conference in Vancouver. This would indicate that AJIS has become accepted in the international information systems community which is gratifying to all those involved with the journal.

In this issue we have contributions from USA, New Zealand, UK and Australia.

Our first paper 'Forecasting Demand using Survival Modelling: An Application to US Prisons' - by J.R. Baker, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia and P.K. Lattimore, National Institute of Justice, Washington - takes a systems approach to modelling population projections in the US prison system. The approach differs from alternate approaches by capitalising on the impact of recursion in the prison population. This reduces the amount and complexity of the data while maintaining accurate forecasts of population.

The next paper - 'Assessing the Graphical and Algorithmic Structure of Hierarchical Coloured Petri Nets' - by G.L. Benwell and S.G. MacDonell, University of Otago, New Zealand - is concerned with the use and understanding of hierarchical coloured Petri nets. The authors suggest that the understanding of hierarchical coloured Petri nets, in part, depends upon the algorithmic or graphical preference of the user and they develop a metric which indicates the graphical or algorithmic tendency of a given Petri net model.

The next paper - 'Information Systems Contribution to Business Performance: A Study of Information Systems Executives' Attitudes' - by D. Fink, The Australian National University and F. Tjarka, Edith Cowan University - shows the results of a study involving IS executives from 200 of Australia's largest companies. Among the results are findings that suggest that Australian IS executives are more technology-oriented than Business-performance-oriented.

M.S. Madsen, I.S. Fogg and C.L.N. Ruggles, University of Leicester, UK, contribute a paper entitled - Meta-Information Systems: A Design Study. This describes an approach which combines semantic metadata and resource metadata to give a more powerful and flexible system than existing global directory systems.

The final paper in this issue is 'A Novel Interface for Information Exploration and Visualisation' - by M.M. North, S.M. North and N.A. Warsi, Human-Computer Interaction Group, Clark Atlanta University, USA. This paper presents a graphical user interface prototype called InfoVis which has been designed to allow users to explore a database without the need for complex syntactical query statements.

Once again I would like to pass on my thanks to the authors and the consulting editors for the high quality of material in this issue of the journal. Again I would like to give a special thanks to Mr Ayman El-Ardenli for his help in finalising the journal presentation.


R.MacGregor
Editor