

EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of the Australian Journal of Information Systems (AJIS). As editor I am pleased to report that over the past six months there has been an ongoing interest in the journal, both from authors and subscribers in the ever widening area of information systems. In this issue we have contributions from six Australian Universities, together with articles from the USA and Greece.

Our first paper 'Using Annotated Conceptual Models to Derive Information Systems Implementations' - by A. Berglas, University of Queensland - explores an important issue in the development of information systems, the time consuming process of producing quality information systems from conceptual models. It demonstrates that by annotating the conceptual model with additional parameters, it is possible to automate the implementation of quality applications from the conceptual model.

The next paper - 'What Happens When Designers Don't Play by the Rules: Towards a Model of Opportunistic Behaviour in Design' - by A. Khushalani, Centre for Systems Methodologies, Swinburne University of Technology, R. Smith, Department of Information Systems, Monash University, & S. Howard, Centre for Systems Methodologies, Swinburne University of Technology - is concerned with designers needing to continually adapt to the specific problem and the environment in which the problem exists, termed 'opportunism'. It develops a model for opportunistic behaviour and discusses directions for further work and research.

Graham Pervan, School of Information Systems, Curtin University of Technology contributes a paper entitled 'Information Systems Management: An Australian View of the Key Issues'. This describes a longitudinal study of Information Systems Managers in Australia's largest 300 organisations.

The next paper is 'Synthesising Expert Systems and Operations Research Techniques: System Classification and Review' - by H. Rao, School of Management SUNY, Buffalo NY, B. Lingaraj, School of Business and Management Sciences, University of Purdue, & M. Rao, Planning and Development, Fallon Community Health Plan. This paper examines the synthesis of expert systems and Operations Research Techniques and classifies various Expert Systems which utilise the two for management problem solving.

The next paper is 'Business Process Redesign Using EDI: The BHP Steel Experience' - by Paula Swatman, Department of Information Management and Marketing, University of Western Australia. This paper examines the re-engineering of Business Processes by using EDI as the standard infrastructure in BHP.

A. Tsalgatidou, D.Gouscos, & C. Halatsis, from the Department of Informatics, University of Athens, Greece contribute a paper entitled 'Towards the Development of Effective and Flexible Information Systems'. This paper presents a new approach to requirement analysis through an environment called VENUS.

The final paper in this issue is 'Using Artificial Neural Networks and Function Points to Estimate 4GL Software Development Effort' - by G. Wittig & G Finnie, School of Information Technology, Bond University. This paper examines the use of back-propagation artificial neural networks in the improvement of accuracy in the forecasting of developmental effort.

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 of the journal. I would like to single out Mr Ayman El-Ardenli, without whose help this journal would not have been produced.

R.MacGregor
Editor