LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I am pleased to announce that there is no longer a backlog of manuscripts awaiting publication. We are now putting manuscripts into the production process as soon as they are accepted. Production, regrettably, usually takes seven or eight months, but we are working hard to reduce even this time period. Our goal is to publish the best international business research as quickly as possible.

Of course, the review process itself requires time. I have been very pleased by the efforts of Tom Beard and most of our reviewers to hold this time to a minimum. Authors themselves, though, must also bear some responsibility in this regard. Good research papers sometimes sit too long on authors' desks before they are submitted. Other papers possess a great deal of potential, but are sent in for review prematurely. This forces the papers through an extra round of review (or worse). More care spent on "polishing" the paper before submission would greatly speed up the review process and would be appreciated by the reviewers. (Many authors also could benefit by asking associates to informally review their manuscripts before they submit them.)

This issue of *JIBS* contains a higher than usual number of articles on service industries. While we don't often receive manuscripts in this area, we certainly welcome them.

David A. Ricks