Editorial

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In the *Journal of Information Technology*, we write editorials only occasionally when we have something to communicate. The principal purpose of this brief piece is to draw readers' and authors' attention to an initiative designed to recapture some of our original focus on information technology. Before introducing this initiative, we'd like to provide a short update on how the Journal is developing.

The numerically alert will have already spotted that this is Volume 24 and that therefore 2010 will be our 25th year. The editorial office will be decked with virtual bunting and no doubt there will be street parties in Second Life! Indeed, there is much to celebrate. Building on an already solid foundation, over the last five years we have worked to develop the Journal on a number of fronts. In particular, together with the Editorial Board we have worked to implement a publication policy that is aimed to help our readers. We assume that IS academics are like us time poor. We aim to publish a high proportion of articles that address this in some fashion. Hence, teaching cases have been designed to make teaching easier. State-of-the-Art surveys by leading scholars have been designed to provide rapid overviews to assist in course and lecture preparation. Debates and Perspective articles are designed to provide stimulating input for seminars. Overall, we have aimed to ensure published articles are high quality, offer advances in knowledge and are of immediate value and interest to the reader.

Authors will be particularly aware that over the last five years rankings of journals have become increasingly important. Our impact factor was the subject of an earlier editorial (Vol 22: 1, March 2007). Since then the Journal has sustained an excellent position each year being consistently fourth or fifth most highly ranked information systems journal in the table for the Management Discipline. Furthermore, the Journal is significantly highly ranked in two other disciplinary tables – Computer Science-Information Systems and Information Science and Library Service.

In its Academic Quality Guide, the Association of Business Schools (essentially, the leading British business schools' ranking) places the Journal in its second tier with only MISQ and ISR higher (<http://www.the-abs.org.uk/>). The Australian Research Council has placed the Journal in the top tier for its research ranking exercise. The Journal also features in the Association of Information Systems'

basket of eight endorsed journals. These are good reasons why universities should recognise and reward publication in the *Journal of Information Technology* and we encourage readers to bring these facts to the attention of their Dean and Head of Department.

As we move into our 25th year, we are looking to trial and implement a web-based manuscript management system to give greater transparency to editors, reviewers and authors. This follows the introduction of Advance Online Publication by which articles are posted on the Journal's website as soon as the author has approved the proofs of the typeset manuscript, an innovation that has been very well received by authors.

Turning then to the original purpose of this editorial, the Editors have become conscious that there is a need to regain focus on information technologies. Our core editorial policy addresses managerial, organisational and social aspects of IT. We write less frequently about the technologies themselves and their emerging potentialities. For this reason, we were particularly pleased to have Jonathan Wareham, Xavier Busquets and Robert Austin guest edit an issue on Mobile Computing. Starting in this issue, we plan to run a series that examines information technologies, technology opportunities and technology futures. Future issues will feature Patrick Naylor writing about speech technologies, Darrel Ince on the future of book technologies and Antonia Jones on technologies to watch. We start the ball rolling with a piece by Dave Aron, Vice-President of Research at the Gartner Group. He develops the theme around how existing technology can be exploited to create innovative collaborations. Arguing that we are at the very start of a period in which new forms of collaboration will emerge, he focuses on what he calls dynamic collaborations. He offers several illustrative examples which are of interest in themselves but more importantly should stimulate academic researchers to seek out and examine these phenomena further.

Twenty-five years on, it is exciting that there are still so many innovations and developments in information technology that it is worth focusing on the technologies themselves. So, just as we are always pleased to consider proposals for special issues of the Journal, the Editors welcome suggestions to extend our series on technologies.

Chris Sauer and Leslie Willcocks