Editorial

Forthcoming theme issue

A future special issue of the Journal will be on *Computer Supported Cooperative Work*. The theme is to be interpreted broadly. Our aim is to attract a broad representation of papers on this important subject from different disciplines, across disciplines and across countries. We already have a number of papers being prepared for this issue but now put forward a further formal invitation to anyone wishing to contribute. The deadlines are:

Submission of paper for refereeing—10 September 1993

Notification of result to authors—1 October 1993

Final copy to Editor—12 November 1993

The likely publication date will be March 1994. Given these tight deadlines it is important that intending authors follow closely the Guidelines for Authors supplied at the back of every issue of the Journal. Enquiries and submissions should be sent to Leslie Willcocks at the Oxford Editorial address in the inside cover of the Journal.

Call for papers

The Second European Conference on Information Systems takes place on 30–31 May 1994 at Nijenrode University, The Netherlands Business School, Breukelen (Utrecht), The Netherlands. This follows the successful running of the First European Conference earlier this year at Henley Management College, UK. The *Journal of Information Technology* will be publishing selected revised papers from this conference in the December 1994 issue.

A call for papers has been issued for the second conference. In addition to papers describing research, the advisory group is also seeking papers describing practical cases. For those wishing to contribute, three copies of any paper should be submitted by 1 December 1993 to:

Walter Baets
Nijenrode University
The Netherlands Business School
Straatweg 25
3621 BG Breukelen
The Netherlands

For further information you can contact Walter Baets by phone on 31 346291725, or by fax on 31 346291250.

Important deadline dates are:

Submission of paper—1 December 1993

Notification of acceptance—12 January 1994

Final copy to Editor—23 February 1994

This issue

The papers this quarter cover a wide range of topics and originate from many different countries. The first paper, by Pat Finnegan and Martin Fahy on information systems planning, reports on a survey of 105 organizations across industrial sectors. The authors review the literature and survey results and conclude that 'Despite awareness of the importance of IS planning, the distance between interest and mastery in the area remains significant'. In particular the authors find an absence of a strategic direction in IS planning and a concentration on detailed operational and tactical issues. This paper makes sober reading for those believing that the existence of planning can be equated with its usefulness. The authors also suggest ways forward from the limitations identified.

The second paper covers ground that is the subject of our special issue in 1994. Gregory Mentzas has studied the coordination of group systems and finds that a number of conflicting options present themselves when developing such systems. These are usefully detailed. His paper helps to address the all too obvious gap in studies on the implications of the introduction and assimilation of group-support technologies in organizations. Rohan Jayasuriya's focus, in the third paper of this issue, is on end-user computing in developing countries. Though his concern is mainly with the health sector, his work is useful in seeing how appropriate models of growth for end-user computing can be in the computing environments of developing countries. He uses cases from Singapore, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea to support his arguments.

The fourth paper, by Peter Middleton, has a narrower focus, namely the impact of computer language on IS development. He argues that such impacts are not well understood and demonstrates the issues through research into developers changing from third to fourth generation languages. He concludes that there are many costs in doing so, and these often outweigh the benefits. Moreover the key factors influencing software productivity emerge as social not technical. The final paper in this section

examines the use of telecommunications technologies in American businesses. Varun Grover and Martin Goslar develop a taxonomy of such technologies and then report the findings from their research into the adoption and implementation of the technologies identified. Based on the research the authors also contribute a four stage model of how usage of these technologies evolves.

In the Management Report section of this issue there is firstly a paper on how an executive information system was developed at a major steel company. Reporting on a successful case, Frederick Wheeler, Shyh Ho Chang and Ronald Thomas offer some important insights on how to plan and provide technical support for senior decision-makers. The second paper in this section consists of a study of the use and non-use of expert systems by financial analysts. One conclusion by the authors Anthony Birts, Malcolm King and Laurie McAulay is that non-use can be explained by the fact that financial analysts do not often engage in the activity for which expert systems could add value, namely extensive inferencing. The authors' research finds different behaviours from those usually portrayed in the literature on financial analysts. At one level the research material presented in the paper provides

several interesting examples of computer solutions looking for a problem.

Forthcoming papers include

Information systems strategies and the management of organizational change. J. Burn.

User satisfaction and service quality of the IS department. R. Watson, L. Pitt, C. Cunningham and D. Nel.

An integrated framework for information systems planning. G. Lee and T. Gough.

Information systems methodologies in use. C. Westrup.

Teleworking: an information technology tool. T. Tsiligrirides.

User participation in systems development. E. Wong and G. Tate.

The effectiveness of decision support systems. R. Webby and M. O'Connor.

A product process model of innovation in software development. P. Quintas.

Leslie Willcocks
Executive Editor