

## Editorial

This first issue of volume 9 of the *European Journal of Information Systems (EJIS)* represents a major and visible change in the journal's structure and operation. Simply put: new millennium, new editors. We are honoured that the Operational Research Society has appointed us (Bob O'Keefe and Ray Paul) as editors with effect from 1 January, 2000. In this editorial we explain the changes that have taken place in parallel with our appointment. We also articulate an expanded scope for the journal, and indicate how we wish to see the journal develop in the future.

Before we get carried away, however, a word on the past. When Steve Smithson and Jonathan Liebneau were persuaded to edit a new *European Journal of Information Systems* in 1990, we doubt that they fully understood the hard work and dedication necessary. Yet nine years and eight full volumes later *EJIS* thrives due to the hard work they put in. The European IS community owes them a great deal. Steve and Jonathan are still seeing out the papers submitted up to and including July 1999. This entire issue, and much of the remaining issues for 2000, contain papers that they have processed.

Steve and Jonathan relied on an editorial board to provide much of their reviews and other input. Our thanks also go to all who have served on the *EJIS* board at one time or another. The editorial board model has, however, been difficult to sustain as journal submissions have grown, and our first major change in the way *EJIS* is operated has been to appoint a set of Associate Editors whose names appear in this issue. Every submission to *EJIS* is now allocated to a Paper Editor (either an Associate or one of us) who solicits two reviews. The Paper Editor, on receiving the reviews, produces a summary report and makes a recommendation to the Editors. We act upon that recommendation. We expect our Associate Editors to be an important part of the journal; we also expect to expand the team of Associates throughout this year. We are delighted to have such distinguished individuals joining our team.

Although *EJIS* will continue to be a journal with a distinct European feel, the world of research (and for that matter information technology and systems) is global. Thus, we have used the opportunity of Associate Editor appointments to provide *EJIS* with a global coverage. Our Associate Editors come not just from Europe, but Hong Kong, New Zealand, and the United States.

We will appoint Associate Editors from other parts of the globe.

Our second major operational change has been to move *EJIS* into the world of electronic submission, processing and publishing. Papers can now be submitted to *EJISsubmissions@orsoc.org.uk* as e-mail attachments. All enquiries should be e-mailed to *EJIS@brunel.ac.uk*. Moreover, Stockton Press is providing electronic versions of the journal at [www.stockton-press.co.uk/ejis/](http://www.stockton-press.co.uk/ejis/). We are expecting to make all 'back office' operations electronic, with a visible reduction in paper review times. As an IS journal, *EJIS* must be run as a first-rate IS operation.

Leaving the future aside for a moment, what can we say about the scope of *EJIS*? A definition of the scope of *EJIS* appears in every issue; it has been slightly altered for this and subsequent issues. Our thinking follows.

To us, the key aspect of European research into IS, and the first eight volumes of *EJIS*, is *pluralism*. The joy of IS is the integration of the technical, personal, organizational, strategic and societal issues that seemed to be so intertwined in any particular IS. We know in IS research that implementations driven by just technology, or just strategy without technology understanding, or sometimes those that simply ignore personal factors, are often doomed. *EJIS* will continue to publish papers that contain research that helps to explain, or even untangle, this intricate web of interrelation. We will not publish papers that focus purely on technology, or interface design, or organizational design, or whatever.

In terms of research methodology, *EJIS* has been at the forefront of pluralism. It published qualitative (and particularly interpretive) research before such research gained broad acceptance across the Atlantic, but has also published quantitative studies. We continue to welcome all methodologies without prejudice. We particularly welcome innovation in methodology. Unlike the previous editors, we do not wish to see researchers constrained by having to declare the names of participating organizations or individuals.

The delicate balance between rigour and relevance has been debated elsewhere, and is a particular problem for many journals. Our view is that relevance is in part a function of what is researched, and how it is written up, rather than of how it's researched. The balance can be addressed by sensible choices and timely publication.

We wish to do everything we can to promote relevance without loss of rigour. We consider the previous use of grouping papers under headings such as 'practice' or 'management' versus 'research' not useful, and from this issue *EJIS* will no longer do this. We expect all our papers to be academically acceptable and to have some relevance to some part of IS/IT practice.

So to the future. We expect to do the following. First, as submissions to *EJIS* grow, we expect to be able to increase the number of papers published each year. Moving *EJIS* to six issues a year may even be possible. Second, we expect to produce more issues (or parts of issues) that are tied into international conferences. This year *EJIS* will publish the best papers from the Vienna European Conference on IS (ECIS) happening in July 2000. We are in discussions with another conference about a special issue.

Third, we want *EJIS* to become more of a forum for

debate. Intellectual debate, even argument, has always been a healthy part of the European scene, and we want to foster this. To this end, we intend to solicit (a) review articles, and (b) provocative papers and comments on those papers. We will also publish short (one to three pages) rejoinders or comments on previously publicised articles. We will also publish letters if we consider them of interest, and work with authors to turn letters into short comments. *EJIS* will continue to publish timely book reviews, and we expect to be innovative in this area as well, possibly soliciting multiple reviews of important books. Our final task is to welcome Lynne Baldwin, a colleague at Brunel University, who will be helping us with the book review process.

Bob O'Keefe  
Ray Paul