Editorial

Journal of the Operational Research Society (2004) 55, 1. doi:10.1057/palgrave.jors.2601706

Over the last year, the journal has seen a number of developments, but overall paper flow is steady and high-quality issues are being produced.

We have published 23 Case-Oriented Papers in Vol. 54 and this is slightly down on the corresponding figure for the previous volume. We remain concerned that there is still a lack of papers discussing implementation of models, recommendations, results, and drawing generic conclusions from case studies; we continue to stress that these are welcome. We look for papers that can contribute to the theory *and practice* of OR; indeed, it is this emphasis that increasingly marks us out from other journals and makes *Journal of the Operational Research Society* what it is.

One action we have taken is to introduce the concept of Practice Notes (following a previous suggestion from Professor Bill Donaldson). As Technical Notes are to Theoretical Papers, so are Practice Notes the counterpart of Case-Oriented Papers—short papers describing applications, which may not be fully implemented yet or totally ‘finished’, but are already showing promise and likely to be of interest to readers because they are likely to help readers in their practice and thinking. There will be a distinction between these papers and the papers directed at *OR Insight*. A number of Practice Notes are now at an advanced stage editorially and will start what we hope will be a regular flow.

There have been one Special Issue and one Part Special Issue in Vol. 54. The topics covered were Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital and Modelling Organizational Knowledge. This year a Part Special Issue on the topic of Intelligent Maintenance will be appearing soon, and a Special Issue on Defence. Other Special Issues are planned and in many cases are at an advanced stage, including Data Envelopment Analysis and Local Search. We have also commissioned a number of Invited Reviews and two will be appearing soon. In the longer term, we shall feature Reviews on System Dynamics, Simulation, Risk, Reliability, Multi-Criteria Decision Making and Forecasting.

The topic of Knowledge Management became the subject of a new journal entitled *Knowledge Management Research and Practice* and was launched by the Operational Research

Society in 2003. This journal is now finding its niche and we wish it a successful future.

During 2003, we launched the system for electronic submission and handling of papers at the journal. There have been a number of teething troubles with this, but problems are steadily being ironed out. As the system becomes established, we look forward to improved turnaround times on submitted papers.

In the near future, our publishers will add the possibility of advanced on-line publication (AOP), which will allow authors and readers to ‘see’ accepted papers in advance of hard copy publication.

We offer our thanks to all our authors and referees, and staff of the Operational Research Society, in particular the Editorial Administrator, Sarah Parry who initially deputized for Christine Faulkner who has been unwell. Sarah has now taken over responsibility for journal administration. We extend our thanks to Christine Faulkner for her sterling work over the years and wish her a speedy recovery from health problems. We are grateful to Bob Miles, Secretary and General Manager of the Operational Research Society, for his personal support in providing cover during the transitional period. We also thank staff at our publisher, Palgrave Macmillan, and Adam Hicks at system developers ISIS. Thanks also go to the members of the International Advisory Board who have given us much important and useful advice based on their own extensive experience as editors, authors, referees and OR specialists. All these people contribute to the day-to-day running of the journal and ultimately to its success with the readership.

We hope that you have enjoyed the journal over the past year and will continue to do so with Vol. 55. We thank all our authors and referees for their continued support, and, of course, readers who continue to regard *Journal of the Operational Research Society* as a leading OR journal.

Terry Williams
Strathclyde University
and

John Wilson
Loughborough University