

SPECIAL ISSUE ON REDEFINING THE ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE INFORMATION AGE

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In the March 1999 issue of *MIS Quarterly*, a Call for Submissions invited manuscripts to be considered for a special issue of the journal on the topic: Redefining the Organizational Roles of Information Technology in the Information Age. The senior editors of this special issue were Jeff Sampler, Al Segars, and Bob Zmud. The intent was to stimulate **significant and innovative theoretical thought** in response to the dramatic changes that had occurred in the 1990s regarding information technology and the transformational ways in which information technology was being applied to enable new forms of organizations and markets. The deadline for submission was October 18, 1999.

A total of 32 manuscripts were submitted. Eight manuscripts made it through two rounds of reviewing and were then presented by invitation at a working conference held at the University of Oklahoma in May 2000. Numerous MIS scholars attending this working conference made significant contributions to these manuscripts. Developmental feedback obtained at and after the working conference resulted in further revision. After

revision, each of these eight manuscripts began a normal, formal review process at the *MIS Quarterly*. The first article to be published as part of the Special Issue, "A Design Theory for Systems That Support Emergent Knowledge Processes" by M. Lynne Markus, Ann Majchrzak, and Les Gasser, appeared in the September 2002 (Volume 26, Number 3) issue of *MIS Quarterly*. Three additional articles appear in this issue: "Shaping Agility through Digital Options: Reconceptualizing the Role of Information Technology in Contemporary Firms," V. Sambamurthy, Anand Bharadwaj, and Varun Grover; "Virtualness and Knowledge in Teams: Managing the Love Triangle of Organizations, Individuals, and Information Technology," Terri L. Griffith, John E. Sawyer, and Margaret A. Neale; and "Reconceptualizing Users as Social Actors in Information Systems Research," Roberta Lamb and Rob Kling.

Many individuals have made, and continue to make, contributions to this special issue. In particular, special thanks are due the associate editors for the working conference: Varun Grover, Sirkka Jarvenpaa, Laurie Kirsch, Arun Rai, Dan Robey, Carol Saunders, Sandy Slaughter, and Geoff Walsham. Jeff, Al, and I thank each of you as well as the working conference attendees and all the individuals involved in these manuscripts' formal review processes at the *MIS Quarterly*.