

Editorial Preview

As is our usual practice, the third issue of each volume of the *MIS Quarterly* contains the first place winning article chosen in the Society for Management Information System's Award Paper competition. This year's winner was written by Dr. Franz Edelman. In my opinion this is a very significant piece of work since it is one of very few instances which demonstrates the cost/benefit relationship of a systems application. Edelman not only does this, but provides us with documentation of an application affecting large numbers of employees of a large corporation, RCA. I think readers will agree that Edelman's work is one of the most significant yet published in MIS.

The second article, by Professors Hackathorn and Keen, is another in our series of articles regarding Decision Support Systems (DSS). This article looks at the personal computing aspects of DSS. As microcomputers flood the organizational scene, information systems managers are faced with many decisions regarding planning, control, and integration. This article should provide information systems managers with some insights regarding this new challenge.

The Application section contains two articles. One, by Lawrence Young of Drexel University, deals with the information systems aspects of value conflicts between specialists and administrators in the health care field. The second article, by Jim Highsmith of Ken Orr and Associates, relates "structured tools" to the problem area of moving from a strategic level MIS plan to a plan at the operational level.

The Theory and Research section has one article. Scott Hamilton, of ComServ Corporation, and Norman L. Chervany, of the University of Minnesota, share with us the results of a research project which examined the evaluation of system effectiveness. This article is actually the first in a two part series. Volume 5, Number 4 will conclude with more detail on measuring system effectiveness.

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