
Editor's Comments

Two items are addressed in this issue's commentary: a call for proposals regarding future "themed issues" for the *MIS Quarterly* and announcements of new Editorial Board members. Additionally, I have invited a commentary by Wynne Chin, an *MIS Quarterly* associate editor. Over the last two years, I have noticed a large increase in the number of manuscripts applying structural equation modeling (SEM) techniques. All too often, the execution and reporting of these analyses have proven problematic. As a service to the information systems research community, I asked Wynne to provide a discussion of the errors typically made in using SEM techniques as well as a brief guide regarding what to do and what not to do when applying SEM techniques and when reporting results. We hope readers will find this material to be of value.

Call for Proposals for "Themed Issues" of the *MIS Quarterly*

The *Quarterly's* senior editors encourage interested individuals to propose future "themed issues" of the *MIS Quarterly*. What is a themed issue? The concept is similar to, but more flexible than, what is normally referred to as a special issue of a scholarly journal. Rather than committing a single, future issue of the journal to a collection of articles on a specific topic, acceptance of a themed issue proposal will instead commit the *Quarterly* to publishing an indeterminate number of articles on the topic over one or more issues of the journal. Increased flexibility is provided in two ways: (1) the number of articles actually published could be greater or fewer than the number (five or six) normally published in a single issue of the journal; and, only two or three articles (of those accepted for publication) need to be completed in order for a set of articles to appear in print. Editorial decisions should thus be based solely on the quality of the submitted manuscripts rather than be driven by publication constraints associated with space (number of pages in an issue to fill) and time (publish the issue by a certain date). Individuals thinking of editing a themed issue should:

1. Contact one of the current *MIS Quarterly* senior editors and convince this individual to join in the effort to propose the themed issue. All themed issues must have a current *MIS Quarterly* senior editor as a co-editor (editorial decisions are made solely by the "special senior editors" for the themed issue).
2. Prepare a prospectus for the themed issue and electronically submit this prospectus to the current *MIS Quarterly* editor-in-chief. This prospectus should describe the topic area, argue the importance of the topic area, explain how the themed issue would add value to information systems scholarship, and suggest a likely Editorial Board (which might or might not contain current *MIS Quarterly* Editorial Board members) for the themed issue.

The *MIS Quarterly* senior editors will collectively assess the prospectus. As one might expect, the outcome of such deliberations will be a decision to accept the prospectus, to reject it, or to ask for revisions.

No preconceived notions exist regarding what may or may not be an appropriate topic for a themed issue, as long as the topic does fit the *MIS Quarterly's* editorial mission. In general, however, the *Quarterly's* senior editors are likely to be most responsive to proposals regarding innovative and fresh

topics (organizational phenomena, methods, technologies). I, along with the Quarterly's senior editors, look forward to hearing from you!

New Editorial Board Members

I am pleased to announce that five individuals have accepted invitations to join the Editorial Board as associate editors: Ritu Agarwal (Florida State University), Dennis Galletta (University of Pittsburgh), Len Jessup (Indiana University), Jeanne Ross (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Maung Sein (Georgia State University). Their names are now listed on the journal's masthead, along with other members of the Editorial Board. Additionally, Joseph Valacich (Washington State University) has been offered, and has accepted, a two-year reappointment as an associate editor. I wish to thank Joe for the exceptional job he has performed as an associate editor; and, I look forward to working with him—as well as our five new associate editors—in the future.

I would also like to take advantage of this announcement to remind readers of two things. First, these individuals were selected to the Editorial Board on the basis of their outstanding performance (over the past two years) as reviewers for the *MIS Quarterly*. Individuals desiring to be appointed to the *Quarterly's* Editorial Board are encouraged to identify themselves to current associate editors as being available to serve as a manuscript referee and then, when asked to serve as a referee, to produce timely, high-quality referee reports. Second, authors are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscript to a specific senior editor, to nominate one or more associate editors to manage their manuscript, and to suggest three or four individuals who might serve as an appropriate referee for the manuscript.

**—Bob Zmud
Editor-In-Chief**