EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of volume 6 of the Australian Journal of Information Systems. As editor I am pleased to report the ongoing interest in the journal both in Australia and overseas.

Our first paper - Inquiring Organisations - James Courtney, David Croasdell & David Paradice, Business Analysis and Research Department, Texas A & M University - examines how contemporary businesses can use models of inquiring systems to become more efficient. The paper explores the relationship between inquiry and learning in organisations and how information technology can be used to support the process of knowledge creation in the context of inquiring systems.

Our second paper - Evaluation of Database Modeling Methods for Geographic Information Systems - Thanasis Hadzilacos, Computer Technology Institute, University of Patras & Nectaria Tryfonas, Department of Computer Science, Aalborg University - evaluates different modeling techniques for the design of Geographic Information Systems. A set of exemplary problems in spatial systems on which the models can be tested is discussed.

Ernest Jordan & David Musson, Macquarie Graduate School of Management provide our next paper - Strategic Systems? Only When they Work! This paper presents the results of a sample survey of Australian organisations' approaches to business and information technology (IT) contingency planning. The findings reveal that most organisations are inadequately prepared and fail to take the issue seriously. Business continuity is not rated as a high priority.

Our next paper is - Evaluating Method Engineer Performance: An Error Classification and Preliminary Empirical Study - Steven Kelly & Matti Rossi, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, University of Jyvaskyla. This paper describes an approach to empirically test the use of metaCASE environments to model methods. The results from this pilot study confirm the usefulness of the classification, and show some interesting differences between the paradigms.

Graham McLeod, University of Capetown provides our next paper - Method Points: A Metric for Method Complexity. This paper presents a metric for method complexity which aids in choosing between competing methods. The paper goes on to recommend way to improve the practical adoption of new methods.

Our next paper is - Reengineering in Australia: Factors Affecting Success - Felicity Murphy, Simsion Bowles and Associates & Sandy Staples, Department of Information Systems, University of Melbourne reports on a study replicating a US study in the Australian context. The compares factors leading to success in the US with those found in Australia.

Paul O'Brien, Information Systems Group, University of Queensland provides our next paper - Electronic Commerce, the Internet and Travel Cybermediaries. This paper investigates the likely disintermediation effects of electronic commerce on Retail Travel Agents. It provides the basis for the development of a strategic framework for intermediaries that can be used to enhance business performance.

Our next paper is - An Investigation into the Feasibility of Tasmanian Stonefruit Growers Employing Electronic Commerce - Stewart Pedersen, School of Information Systems, University of Tasmania. The paper presents an assessment of the feasibility of Tasmanian stonefruit growers adopting electronic commerce. The paper suggests that there is a need for these issues to be understood prior to adopting electronic commerce.

Victor van Reijswoud, Department of Information Systems, Delft University of Technology & Hans Mulder, Essential Action Engineers, present our next paper - Speech Act Based Communication and Information Modelling with DEMO. The field of speech act based modelling of information systems has attracted increasing attention in recent years. This paper provides several case studies using DEMO.

Michael Rosemann & Michael zur Muehlen, Department of Information Systems, University of Muenster, provide our next paper - Evaluation of Workflow Management Systems - A Meta Model Approach. This paper provides an organisational reference meta model. The paper shows that this model helps users specifying their requirements for workflow management systems.

Our next paper is - Reengineering A Software Review Process with the Function Based Process Analysis (FPA) Method - Claude Stricker & Jintae Lee, Department of Decision Sciences, University of Hawaii. This paper looks at how WWW technology can improve existing processes in the context of the software review process.

Our final paper is - Tool Based Psychology as a Philosophy of Technology - Irina Verenikina, Russian Academy of Sciences & Edward Gould, Department of Business Systems, University of Wollongong. This paper examines the influence of psychology in the area of human computer interaction. As a possible alternative to the cognitive approach the Vygotskian psychological framework of activity theory introduced.

Once again I would like to pass on my thanks to the authors and consulting editors for the high quality of material in this issue. I would also like to thank Keith Curle for his book review and David Dodds for his assistance in producing final copy of the journal and the maintenance of the Home page.

R. MacGregor
Editor