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Editor's Comments

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As you can easily see by our new format and the parties involved, there have been major changes at *MISQ Executive* in the last several months. All the changes are positive. It is a great pleasure to report them here. The first of these changes is the newly developed involvement of a number of organizations with MISQE.

New Relationships

Undoubtedly most significant, we have entered into a partnership with the Society for Information Management (SIM). Financially, SIM will contribute a major part of our budget. More important, MISQE will be delivered electronically to all SIM members. CIOs and other IT practitioners are the primary audience we wish to reach through this journal. The SIM partnership provides us with a large segment of this readership. In addition, our contact with the key people at SIM has already provided dividends in understanding their key issues. You will find a page devoted to SIM in this issue. Finally, Ray Hoving has agreed to be our key contact at SIM. Ray, as many of you know, has had a distinguished career in the field, primarily at Air Products Inc. As SIM Consulting Editor, he currently acts as a major resource to the Senior Editors in reviewing articles—although decisions to accept a submission remain in academic hands.

We are also pleased that AIS is supporting us financially. Thus, we will have electronic reach into our second major audience—IT academics. MISQE will be available electronically to all AIS members.

In the past few months, eight research centers at the University of Georgia, the University of Houston, the MIT Sloan School of Management, the University of North Texas, Ohio State University, the University of Oklahoma, Texas A & M University, and Wayne State University have begun to send MISQE electronically to their business sponsors. The fee for this is relatively small, and other centers are encouraged to be involved in this way.

Most recently, as the cover shows, we have also been joined by two major international academic partners. These are the Institute of Information Management at University of St. Gallen, and the Information Systems Department at the City University of Hong Kong. As international partners, they will receive print editions of MISQE, provide people for the Editorial Board and become involved with MISQE in other ways. We believe this internationalization of MISQE to be a significant step forward.

A Print/Electronic Journal

The second major change is the change in the media that we employ. When MISQE was founded, we termed the journal "a print journal published electronically." The idea was that our format would be a print format so that articles could be read and printed out as if they came from a printed publication. Given the support above, we are changing to a "print/electronic journal." MISQE will now be available either in print or electronic form. Authors will be provided with print copies of the issues in which they appear. Readers who currently receive the journal electronically (AIS or other subscribers) may now choose to also receive MISQE in print for an additional annual fee of $30. We believe this offers an effective choice of media to all subscribers.

This Issue

Of course, the heart of any journal is its content. It is a great pleasure to print the 2002 SIM Paper Award-winning paper, *A Post-Merger IT Integration Success Story*, by Carol Brown, Greg Clancy and Rebecca Scholer. We hope that MISQE will be the outlet for future SIM winners. The paper notes that too many IT integrations either fail or do not deliver what is expected. While the story of Sallie May is a single case study, it offers several interesting insights into what makes a successful integration process. Carol also establishes an MISQE first by authoring two articles in the same issue! Together with coauthor Iris Vessey, she provides us with a retrospective view of five "success factors" in the ERP implementations they studied. While ERP implementations may be slowing down, it is probable that organizations will continue to implement highly complex enterprise systems. The findings from this article can certainly be helpful.

Dorothy Leidner, Bob Beatty, and Jane Mackay deal with the very timely issue of the management of IT in an economic decline. Based on interviews with 20

CIOs, the authors note four different approaches to managing IT in a period of retrenchment. Jeanne Ross provides insights into the movement of IT architecture through four stages, each of which, she notes, is a precursor to the next. One cannot jump a stage, she suggests, because of the significant amount of organizational learning that must take place in each.

Sincerely,

John F. Rockart
Editor-in-Chief