Editorial

In our first editorial we mentioned the journal’s debt to the previous editors, Steve Smithson and Jonathan Liebenau. This issue is also made up entirely of papers submitted to the journal under their editorships, so once again, thanks Steve and Jonathan.

We also mentioned an operational change to EJIS concerning electronic submission (see Instructions To Authors near the back of this issue). Submissions are overwhelmingly electronic already, as are query handling and most of the refereeing process. Average paper review times are down, but we are trying to eliminate all ‘stragglers’.

We mentioned a small alteration to the scope of EJIS, and below we repeat our thinking behind this to ensure that the message reverberates:

“To us, the key aspect of European research into IS, and the first eight volumes of EJIS, is pluralism. The joy of IS is the integration of the technical, personal, organizational, strategic and societal issues that seemed to be so intertwined in any particular IS. We know in IS research that implementations driven by just technology, or just strategy without technology understanding, or sometimes those that simply ignore personal factors, are often doomed. EJIS will continue to publish papers that contain research that helps to explain, or even untangle, this intricate web of interrelation. We will not publish papers that focus purely on technology, or interface design, or organizational design, or whatever.

In terms of research methodology, EJIS has been at the forefront of pluralism. It published qualitative (and particularly interpretive) research before such research gained broad acceptance across the Atlantic, but has also published quantitative studies. We continue to welcome all methodologies without prejudice. We particularly welcome innovation in methodology. Unlike the previous editors, we do not wish to see researchers constrained by having to declare the names of participating organizations or individuals.

The delicate balance between rigour and relevance has been debated elsewhere, and is a particular problem for many journals. Our view is that relevance is in part a function of what is researched, and how it is written up, rather than of how it’s researched. The balance can be addressed by sensible choices and timely publication. We wish to do everything we can to promote relevance without loss of rigour. We consider the previous use of grouping papers under headings such as ‘practice’ or ‘management’ versus ‘research’ not useful, and from this issue EJIS will no longer do this. We expect all our papers to be academically acceptable and to have some relevance to some part of IS/IT practice.”

In this issue we have an extensive book review section which largely brings book reviews up to date. We intend to keep it that way.

In the next issue, in order to initiate a comments section to EJIS, we shall have three reviews of Ian Angell’s controversial book ‘The New Barbarian Manifesto: How to Survive the Information Age’. One newspaper reviewer has already christened Ian the ‘Angell of Death’, so we can look forward to some interesting IS reviews.

Bob O’Keefe
Ray Paul