1. All change!

It is with considerable pleasure that we introduce Volume 9 of JSIS with details of our new editorial team. Joining me as joint editor-in-chief is Sirkka Jarvenpaa of the University of Texas, Austin, USA. Replacing Jon Turner as editor for the Americas region is Blake Ives of Louisiana State University, USA. Neither Sirkka nor Blake need any introduction, however. Both are well known and respected throughout the Information Systems community worldwide for their scholarship and their various contributions to the development of our discipline. It is both a great pleasure and honour to have them join the JSIS team.

It is not quite all change, however, as Mike Vitale and I continue in our roles as regional editors for Asia Pacific and Europe, the Middle East and Africa respectively. Having said that, Mike is moving from Melbourne Business School to take up a new challenge as Dean of the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) at the University of New South Wales, while I am taking the ‘opposite’ route: having stepped down as Dean of Warwick Business School in 1998, I am now to take up a Chair in Information Systems at the London School of Economics (LSE)!

In addition, Dorothy Leidner (INSEAD, France) joins Ramon O’Callaghan (Tilburg University, The Netherlands) as joint case studies editor, while Philip Powell, having recently moved from Goldsmiths College, London to the University of Bath School of Management, remains book reviews editor. ‘Continuity and change’, as my former colleague at Warwick, Andrew Pettigrew would say!

2. This edition

The global nature of our subject is once again illustrated by the papers that appear in this edition of JSIS — with contributions from the USA, South Korea, the UK and Singapore.

We start with a Viewpoint article by Marilyn Helms and Lawrence Ettkin, both of the University of Tennessee at Chatanooga, and Daniel Morris, Director of Marketing of the Gale Corporation, North Highlands, California, USA, Their article reminds us that the
opposite side of the coin of competitive intelligence is — or should be — counter or
defensive intelligence. Given the rise in computer related crime, the whole question of
information and/or computer security is an issue of growing strategic importance and JSIS
would welcome further contributions on this topic.

This Viewpoint article is followed by two articles dealing with different aspects of IT
School of Management at KAIST, Seoul, South Korea. Their article presents a methodol-
yogy which aims to assist management in their IT investment decisions. Issues of flexibility,
efficiency and alignment are incorporated in their approach, which is applied and evalu-
ated in a Korean company.

An alternative approach to the evaluation of IT investments is provided in the article
that follows. Written by P. Balasubramanian, Nalin Kulatilaka and John Storck, all of the
Boston University School of Management, USA, this article proposes a real-options
approach to the complex topic of identifying benefits (as well as costs) associated with
infrastructure investments. The authors note that not only is theirs a practical approach in
and of itself but one which provides the added value of informing the management process
associated with IT investment decisions.

This article is followed by one written by Margi Levy and Philip Powell, of Warwick
Business School and the University of Bath School of Management, UK. They focus on
the long-standing topic of IS strategy, but this time in the context of small and medium
sized enterprises (SMEs). It has often been said that SMEs are not simply smaller versions
of large corporations — they have their very own characteristics and imperatives. The
point is also often made that SMEs contribute substantially to a nation’s economy not only
in absolute GDP terms but also in terms of employment opportunities and product/service
innovation. Notwithstanding — as the authors point out — the SME sector remains
relatively under-researched in the management and IS literature. Echoing the earlier View-
point article, Levy and Powell note the role of information as a strategic resource and
develop an approach to IS strategy which is particularly relevant for the SME sector. Their
approach takes account of organisational change issues as well as the more narrowly
focused issues typically highlighted when it comes to IS implementation. Their approach
is applied and evaluated in over 40 case companies located in the UK West Midlands.

The final paper in this edition of JSIS is a case study article concerned with the Port of
Singapore Authority (PSA). Written by Joo Eng Lee-Partidge, Thompson Teo and Vivien
Lim of the Faculty of Business Administration at the National University of Singapore
(NUS), this paper shows how the identification of a number of key success factors has
helped the PSA leverage IT in streamlining operations and sustaining its position as the
busiest port in the world.

3. The next edition

Finally, we are pleased to say that the next edition of JSIS is a Special Issue which
focuses entirely on the subject of knowledge management and knowledge management
systems (KMS). This special issue is edited by Dorothy Leidner and promises to provide
many new insights into this burgeoning topic area.
We hope that you continue to enjoy JSIS and find the material we publish both challenging and thought-provoking. We would both appreciate hearing your comments and reactions, and any suggestions you may have for future editions.

R.D. Galliers¹,*
S. Jarvenpaa
Department of Information Systems,
London School of Economics,
Houghton St.,
London WC2A 2AE,
UK

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +44-207-955-6019; fax: +44-207-955-7385.
¹ www.wbs.warwick.ac.uk.