

■ SHAWNEE VICKERY, Feature Editor, Eli Broad Graduate School of Management, Michigan State University

Journal Update and Editorial Philosophy

by Ram Narasimhan, Editor, *Decision Sciences*,
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As I enter the second term of my tenure as editor of *Decision Sciences*, I want to communicate to you the status of the journal and some changes that I will be making in the editorial philosophy of the journal. The journal continues to enjoy a solid reputation among academics, thanks to the efforts of authors, reviewers, and the associate editors of the journal. I want to note in particular the importance of the reviewers in protecting and enhancing the reputation of the journal. Ultimately, it is the quality of the reviews that plays a major role in determining which papers get accepted.

During a recent annual meeting, I made a presentation to the doctoral and new faculty consortium participants, who asked what incentives existed for reviewers to take their reviewing responsibility seriously. It was a good question then and remains so now. I can think of several answers—some more compelling than others. Reviewing for *Decision Sciences* is a professional and service responsibility of the members of the institute. Without such voluntary service it would be difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a high quality journal. It allows the reviewers to preview articles and assess research ideas long before the articles will see the light of print. Research-minded reviewers can get valuable ideas by reviewing. It allows faculty to train graduate students, get ideas for research papers, and incorporate new ideas in doctoral seminars. Reviewing well is clearly the best way that you can help control the quality of the articles published in the *Decision Sciences* journal.

Authors of articles published in the journal have a vested interest in ensuring the high quality of the journal. Certainly, you do not want the value of your own publications in *Decision Sciences* depreciated

by erosion in the quality of the journal. There can be no disagreement among us that as members of this institute we should do everything we can to ensure the quality of the journal.

What can you do to help? Please volunteer to review either through the journal Web site or via conventional means of communication. Help us update the keyword list, which determines the selection of reviewers for papers submitted. Please make every effort to provide a high quality and timely review, keeping in mind that your review serves two purposes. It helps the editor and associate editors to make a decision regarding the publishability of the paper. It also helps the authors to revise and strengthen their paper as they pursue the topic further. Please pay attention to the reviewer comment sheet. Principally, it is the originality and contribution to the literature that should influence your recommendation. Do not recommend rejection of articles using “managerial significance” as the reason.

As editor, I ask for your help in the review process. Please be of service to the journal and the Institute by agreeing to provide a few high quality reviews each year.

Two years ago at the DSI annual meeting in San Francisco, the editorial board of the journal met to consider journal-related issues. I proposed a number of policy changes to the editorial board. The associate editors were strongly supportive of the proposed changes and initiatives. *Decision Sciences* journal, although regarded highly, is not readily associated with specific disciplines because of its multi-disciplinary orientation. The orientation of the journal reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the Institute’s membership. The goal of the in-



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stitute is to be an international, multidisciplinary association dedicated to advancing knowledge in all business and related disciplines. The orientation of the journal will continue to reflect this multidisciplinary nature of the Institute's membership and mission. This raises the question: can the journal compete successfully with other journals that have a specific focus? The editorial board agreed that this could be achieved in spite of the journal's multidisciplinary orientation. However, it would require explicitly recognizing the principal areas in which the journal is considered a top-tier academic journal. Accordingly, the journal will especially welcome and encourage submission of articles in three principal areas: Operations Management, Management Science/Quantitative and Statistical Analysis and Information Systems. These three areas comprise the majority of the membership of the institute and the articles published in

the journal. The editorial philosophy will continue to seek high quality articles in all of the functional areas consistent with the mission statement of the Institute. Articles submitted to the journal in other areas must have a clear decision-making orientation and be of comparable quality to the top journals in those areas. Articles not falling into the principal areas will be first sent to an associate editor for an initial assessment of their quality and suitability for the *Decision Sciences* journal. This would also help speed up the review process.

Since the journal competes with the *Journal of Operations Management* and *Production Operations Management* for high quality articles, let me address the specific area of operations management. Unlike some journals, which seek to publish only empirical studies, *Decision Sciences* seeks to publish high quality articles that represent original and solid contribution to the existing body of literature. To be specific, ar-

ticles employing diverse methodologies, ranging from mathematical/quantitative analysis to empirical/data analysis, will be appropriate for *Decision Sciences*. The articles might propose new theories and test them, might evaluate and extend existing theories or represent innovative applications of existing theories. The journal also seeks to publish comprehensively and carefully done literature surveys and meta-analysis of existing studies in operations management. Thought-provoking and path-breaking conceptual articles that illuminate new areas for research and challenge researchers in the field to pursue interesting and important problems and theory building efforts in operations and supply chain management are encouraged.

In the area of information systems, the journal needs to differentiate itself from *MIS Quarterly* and *Journal of Information Systems Research*. Information systems ar-

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Future DSI Annual, International, & Regional Annual Meetings

NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

November 22-25, 2003

The Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC

November 20-23, 2004

The Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel
Boston, Massachusetts

November 19-22, 2005

The San Francisco Marriott
(Downtown)
San Francisco, California

November 18-21, 2006

The San Antonio Marriott
Rivercenter/Riverwalk Hotels
San Antonio, Texas

November 17-20, 2007

The Marriott Desert Ridge
Resort & Spa
Phoenix, Arizona

7th INTERNATIONAL MEETING

(Combined with the 2003 Asia-Pacific
Regional Meeting)

July 4-8, 2003

China Europe International Business
School
Shanghai, China

REGIONAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

Asia-Pacific

July 4-8, 2003

China Europe International Business
School
Shanghai, China

Midwest

2004

Cleveland, Ohio

Northeast

March 24-26, 2004

Tropicana Casino and Resort
Atlantic City, New Jersey

2005

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Southeast

February 25-27, 2004

Doubletree Guest Suites
Charleston, South Carolina

2005

Raleigh, North Carolina

Southwest

March 2-6, 2004

Orlando Hyatt
Orlando, Florida

March 2-5, 2005

San Diego Town & Country Resort
San Diego, California

2006

San Antonio, Texas (tentative)

Western

April 15-19, 2003

Kauai Marriott Resort and Beach Club
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

April 13-17, 2004

Isla Navidad, Mexico

2005

Vancouver, B.C., Canada (tentative)

2006

Hawaii (tentative)

DSJIE Seeks Research Relevant to Teaching and Learning Issues in the Decision Sciences

The *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* is a new peer-reviewed journal published by the Decision Sciences Institute. Its mission is to publish significant research relevant to teaching and learning issues in the decision sciences. The decision sciences is the union of the quantitative and behavioral approaches to managerial decision making, encompassing all of the functional areas of business, including (but not limited to) accounting, business strategy and entrepreneurship, economics, finance, international business and globalization, marketing, MIS/DSS and computer systems, organizational behavior/organizational design, operations and logistics management, quantitative methods and statistics.

Types of articles suitable for publication in the *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* include the following.

- **An empirical research article** describes high-quality empirical research related to innovative education in the decision sciences.

- **A case study research article** describes high-quality research related to innovative education in the decision sciences that employs a class as a case.
- **A conceptual/theoretical article** describes an approach to innovative education or a learning issue relevant to the decision sciences.
- **A teaching brief** *briefly* describes an innovative approach for teaching in the decision sciences.

Website

The *Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education* Web site at <http://www.mba.wfu.edu/dsjie/> will contain abstracts of all empirical research, case study research and conceptual/theoretical articles, as well as teaching briefs in their entirety. It contains information for contributors and a site where authors can check on the status of articles in process. The Website also contains announcements about upcoming events related to innovative education in

the decision sciences and a section for personal news about DSI members, such as news about winners of teaching awards. Please send your news and announcements to the editor, at the address below. ■

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articles that have a clear decision-making orientation, have analytical content (which might render them unsuitable for *MIS Quarterly* and *Journal of Information Systems Research*) and interface well with the other two principal areas of the journal will be most appropriate for *Decision Sciences*. Articles that examine new system development methodologies or explicate and compare programming techniques that have a tangential connection to decision making will not be suitable for the journal.

The new editorial philosophy of the journal that is being developed will reflect this refinement in the orientation of the journal. I wanted to communicate some of the changes being contemplated for incorporation in the new editorial philosophy. As editor, I am dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of the journal, one of the principal assets of the Institute. I am asking for your help and support. Submit

your best work to the journal. Encourage your colleagues and graduate students to submit their work to the journal. Propose special issues of the journal. I am receptive to ideas that are consistent with the stated direction of the journal. ■

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DSI Online Membership Directory Is Available to All Institute Members

To access the DSI online membership directory, point your browser to:

<http://decisionssciences.org/directory/auth.asp>

and log in using your email address and membership number as password. If you do not remember your membership number, you can have the system send your password to you from the authentication page. If you have not registered an email address, contact us at dsi@gsu.edu with your membership number and email address, and we will update your profile for you. Once you are logged in, you can also update your own profile.