

The Decision Sciences Journal: As We Move Forward

by Asoo J. Vakharia, Editor, University of Florida

It is a privilege and honor to be chosen as the new editor for the *Decision Sciences* journal (DSJ). I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of the Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) for their unanimous decision in my appointment and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Editor Search Committee members—Manoj Malhotra (Chair), V. Sambamurthy, Peter Ward, and K.K. Sinha.

Prior to communicating some thoughts on the future of *DSJ*, I would like to start by reviewing the current status of the journal. The success enjoyed by the journal is reflected in the 2008 ISI and Thompson Reuters Journal Citation Report for management journals which reported that *DSJ* has an impact factor equivalent/superior to leading journals in Information Systems & Operations Management (e.g., *Journal of Operations Management*, *Management Science*, *Information Systems Research*, *Production and Operations Management Journal*, and *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management*). I would like to recognize former editor **Vicki Smith-Daniels** who has worked tirelessly and with extreme dedication in the past several years to make this possible. She also made significant contributions in designing, implementing, and maintaining the first on-line submission processing system for *DSJ*. This system forms the backbone of the new on-line submission currently under development at the University of Florida.

Although my term as editor started July 1, 2010, Professor Smith-Daniels and I began working earlier together to ensure a seamless transition which will best serve the needs of the research community. All journal contributors should

be aware of the following:

To submit a new manuscript, please go to

<http://decisionssciencesjournal.org>

and you will be directed to the new journal website.

If you have already submitted a paper:

All papers submitted **on or after March 23, 2010**, have been jointly handled by both the previous and incoming editors. Assuming a paper submitted during this period was accepted for review, all author enquiries on these submissions should be directed to **dsjmgeditor@warrington.ufl.edu**. Reviewers, editors, and authors of all such papers should have received an individual email with this same information.

All papers submitted **prior to March 23, 2010**, are being processed by Professor Smith-Daniels. If your paper (or a paper you are reviewing) falls into this category, please contact Professor Smith-Daniels' editorial team at **decisionssciences@asu.edu**. Please note that you will not be able to log in and submit your reviews or check the status of your paper via the ASU system since it is not available.

In the rest of this article, I will detail the journal's mission, editorial statement of purpose, and describe future changes. I welcome any thoughts and suggestions on these and other aspects.

Journal Mission

DSJ, as the flagship publication of the DSI, is well recognized as a top-quality, refereed journal which publishes scholarly research on contemporary strategic, tactical, and operational decision prob-



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He has a PhD in operations management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research primarily focuses on contemporary issues in Supply Chain Management (such as disruption management, new product introduction, and mass customization). He has published papers in several academic leading journals including *Decision Sciences*, *European Journal of Operational Research*, *IIE Transactions*, *Journal of Discrete Applied Mathematics*, *Journal of Operations Management*, *Naval Research Logistics Journal*, among others. He is the editor for *Decision Sciences* and a senior editor for *Production and Operations Management Journal*.

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lems that are inter-organizational, group-based, and/or technology-enabled. The mission of *DSJ* is to disseminate research on the art, science, and practice of decision making within and across organizational boundaries.

Editorial Statement of Purpose

In reviewing the historical focus of the journal and categorizing published manuscripts in the past five years, it is apparent that *DSJ* is the publication of choice for established and emerging researchers in Operations/Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Information Systems/Technology (IT). Thus, research papers which address contemporary business problems and simultaneously provide novel managerial and/or theoretical insights in the broad areas of SCM and IT and their interface are ideal for publication in the journal. This will enable the journal to focus its research contributions and provide a differentiated grounding for *DSJ* in comparison to other respected business journals with a decision making focus (e.g., *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* and *Decision Analysis*). Additionally, research articles addressing problems in established and emerging interdisciplinary fields (such as Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Healthcare Systems, New Product Development and Introduction, Network Security, and Project Management) are also encouraged.

The problem of interest can be addressed using one or more methodological research tools (analytical, conceptual, and/or empirical). Articles which extend existing and established approaches are appropriate provided they demonstrate a substantial impact on current practice and/or theory. Thought-provoking and controversial research efforts which propose new paradigms, and/or conceptual frameworks are especially encouraged. The journal will also publish comprehensive reviews of prior research within a specific domain and continue to publish notes focusing on technical and methodological issues. All papers accepted for publication must meet high scholarly research standards, demonstrate managerial and theoretical relevance, and facilitate and enhance decision making practice.

As we move forward

Given that *DSJ* is a well positioned and mature journal, the strategies which will enable us to make an even greater impact are obviously those that apply to journals in this phase of the life cycle. From a technology perspective, the journal publishers are already implementing a system which will allow electronic access to the journal for subscribers. Currently, an online submission system is under development at the University of Florida and will be available by July 1, 2010. Over and above these aspects, there are certain other changes which will be implemented and these are described next.

Editorial Structure and Anonymity Issues

Effective July 1, the journal will implement a revised editorial structure as follows.

Senior Editors (SE's): Four SE's (see Exhibit 1) have agreed to join the journal in this role. These individuals are accomplished research scholars in their respective fields of expertise, have interdisciplinary research interests, and also disseminated their research through *DSJ* (the current research interests of each SE will be made available on the online submission system). Each paper submitted to the journal will be handled by one SE whose primary responsibility is to coordinate its entire review process.

Associate Editors (AE's): The number of AE's who will serve the journal has been substantially increased and individuals who have accepted the invitation to serve in this position are also listed in Exhibit 1. The role of the AE has been modified slightly as they will directly recruit referees for a paper.

Editorial Review Board (ERB): In the past the ERB was a listing of regular reviewers for the journal. Since reviewers will now be selected and recruited by the AE's, there will be no formal ERB for the journal. Instead, the critical and invaluable service of all reviewers to the journal will be recognized on an annual basis.

In line with current *DSJ* policy, referees will not know the identity of the author(s) and vice versa. However,

an AE will be provided the information on the identity of author(s) for a specific submission so that they can choose appropriate referees, and the SE will be provided information on the identity of author(s), referees, and the AE providing a recommendation.

Focused Issues of *DSJ*

As in the past, focused issues of the journal (a maximum of two every year) will be encouraged. At this time, I have already received some initial requests for special issues on "Innovation and Technology Management in Supply Chains" and on "Network Security." I encourage the research community to contact me with their proposals and ideas for other focused issues of *DSJ*.

Review Process and Cycle Time

Assuming a submission falls within the general focus of the journal, the review process for a manuscript should be completed within 60-65 days of the submission date. This target can be achieved provided all the parties in the process are diligent and meet their deadlines. Several mechanisms/tools will be utilized to meet this target. First, each referee will be given at most six weeks (i.e., 42 days) to complete a review. Assuming that an individual agrees to review a paper, we should be able to achieve this target. Second, the AE's will be given a maximum of 10 days to recruit referees and also formulate their final report/recommendation based on the referee reports. If for some reason a referee is late in submitting their report, the AE will be encouraged to act as a reviewer and provide a separate report for the manuscript. Finally, the online system will be designed to provide complete information to the editor, the SE, and AE, and author(s) as to the current status of their paper. This should be another incentive for all interested and involved parties to adhere to their assigned timelines. It is my personal opinion that cycle times are of critical interest to the academic community and if each of us is willing to put in some effort, we can achieve the targeted deadlines for *DSJ*.

Annual Recognition

On an annual basis, the outstanding service of *two* associate editors and *three* reviewers will be recognized. In addition, for all manuscripts published in each volume of the journal, two papers will be recognized as the (a) Best Theoretical Research paper; and (b) Best Application Research paper.

Concluding Thoughts

The focus of *DSJ* will be to publish exemplary and rigorous research addressing business decisions primarily in the areas of SCM and/or IT. It is my belief that by focusing the journal on these areas and their interface, we will be able to find a “home” for an emerging body of rigorous research. It will also provide a unique identity for the journal in comparison to other established journals with a decision making focus. In addition, with the

changes in editorial structure outlined above, I believe we will be able to provide quicker feedback on submitted papers. Of course, since the community at large will not only be submitting papers but also refereeing them, I ask for your help in accomplishing this objective. *DSJ* is an excellent outlet for disseminating both theoretical and practical research, and I hope that we can work together to maintain and enhance its reputation within our community. ■

Exhibit A

Senior Editors (SE's) for DSJ

Kurt M. Bretthauer, Indiana University
<http://www.kelley.iu.edu/ODT/Faculty/page11362.cfm?ID=8836>

Paulo Goes, University of Arizona
<http://mis.eller.arizona.edu/faculty/pgoes.asp>

Kingshuk K. Sinha, University of Minnesota
<http://www.csom.umn.edu/Page2075.aspx?type=faculty&eid=84184084>

Cheri Speier, Michigan State University
<http://broad.msu.edu/accounting/faculty/member?id=59>

Associate Editors (AE's) for DSJ

Soon Ang, Nanyang Technological University
Indranil Bardhan, University of Texas at Dallas
Elliot Bendoly, Emory University
WC Benton, Ohio State University
Janice Carrillo, University of Florida
Kyle Cattani, Indiana University
Dilip Chhajed, University of Illinois
Patrick Y.K. Chau, University of Hong Kong
Rachel Chen, University of California-Davis
H. Kenneth Cheng, University of Florida
Thomas Choi, Arizona State University
Maqbool Dada, Johns Hopkins University
Nicole DeHoratius, University of Portland
Vinayak Deshpande, Purdue University
Joy Field, Boston College
Barbara B. Flynn, Indiana University

Cipriano Forza, Univerita de Padova
Jan Fransoo, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Srinagesh Gavirneni, Cornell University
Soumen Ghosh, Georgia Institute of Technology
Susan M. Goldstein, University of Minnesota
Ram Gopal, University of Connecticut
Varun Grover, Clemson University
V. Daniel R. Guide, Jr., Pennsylvania State University
Greg Heim, Texas A&M University
Apurva Jain, University of Washington
Norman Johnson, University of Houston
Vijay Kannan, Utah State University
Xenophon Koufteros, Texas A & M University
Michael Ketzenberg, Texas A & M University
Clayton Looney, University of Montana
Manoj Malhotra, University of South Carolina
Anne Massey, Indiana University
Larry Menor, University of Western Ontario
Nagesh Murthy, University of Oregon
Ram Narasimhan, Michigan State University
Jan Olhager, Linkoping University
Rich Metters, Emory University
Ray Patterson, University of Alberta
Anand Paul, University of Florida
Nicholas Petruzzi, University of Illinois
Edieal Pinker, University of Rochester
Robin Poston, University of Memphis
Elliot Rabinovich, Arizona State University
Aleda Roth, Clemson University
Cliff Ragsdale, Virginia Polytechnic & State University
Sudha Ram, University of Arizona
Jacqueline Rees, Purdue University
Johnny Rungtusanatham, University of Minnesota

Nada Sanders, Lehigh University
Fabrizio Salvador, Instituto do Empresa Business School
Enno Siemsen, University of Minnesota
Rachna Shah, University of Minnesota
Hojung Shin, Korea University
Vicki Smith-Daniels, Arizona State University
Greys Sosis, University of Southern California
Gil Souza, Indiana University
Sri V. Sridharan, Clemson University
Chelliah Sriskandarajah, University of Texas at Dallas
Kathryn E. Stecke, University of Texas at Dallas
Nallan Suresh, University at Buffalo
Mani Subramani, University of Minnesota
Srinivas Talluri, Michigan State University
Giri Tayi, SUNY Albany
Rohit Verma, Cornell University
Visvanath Venkatesh, University of Arkansas
Peter Ward, Ohio State University
Scott Webster, Syracuse University
Urban Wemmerlov, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Yunzeng Whang, University of California-Riverside
Xiande Zhao, Chinese University of Hong Kong