



Editorial

The Editorship of the Journal passed from Dr. John Ranyard to ourselves in late 2001. While our mission is the same as all of our predecessors—to further the theory and practice of OR—the past year has been one of finding our way and looking to some exciting developments in the future.

We have published 34 Case Oriented Papers in Volume 53 and this represents 31% of the total number of papers published in the ordinary issues of the journal. This is a fairly healthy statistic, but we are concerned that there is still a lack of papers discussing implementation of models, recommendations and results and we continue to stress that these are welcome. Getting papers that are motivated by real-life ‘messy’ problems has been a persistent issue for previous editors who have all tried to stress the ‘and practice’ in their aim to further the theory and practice of OR. Along with them, we urge more authors to write such papers, to encourage their colleagues to do so, and to combine with clients to do so. Although these remarks are made after a period that has seen declines in the size of some OR groups, we know that the subject is still vibrant and OR is being done in many guises, and indeed see signs that the profession is growing in some areas. We would like to encourage all who engage in OR, under all its various alternative names, to write up the vital points of their experiences for the benefit of others (and themselves). It is to be hoped that the introduction of a professional accreditation system within the Operational Research Society will be seen as a spur to the dissemination of the results of OR. Good OR is there to bring benefit to our community and our world, and the Journal is your forum for showing how you have done this.

There have been three Special Issues, or Part Special Issues, in Volume 53. The topics covered were The Process of OR, Performance Management and Applications and Developments in Mathematical Programming. This year a special issue on the topic of Knowledge Management will be appearing soon. Other Special Issues are planned and in many cases are at an advanced stage.

The topic of Knowledge Management will also be the subject of a new journal entitled *Knowledge Management Research and Practice* to be launched by the Operational Research Society in 2003. This will extend and complement the topics covered by the *Journal of the Operational Research Society* in the way the earlier launch of the *European Journal of Information Systems* has done, and the new journal will be included with all 2003 subscriptions to JORS.

We offer our thanks to all our authors and referees, staff of the Operational Research Society, the Editorial Administrator, Christine Faulkner, and staff at our publisher, Palgrave. All these people contribute to the day-to-day running of the journal and ultimately to its success with the readership.

Thanks also go to the members of the International Advisory Board. We thank Jakob Karup, Hugo Pastijn, Jan Telgen, Pierra Tolla and Stanislaw Walukiewicz who have stepped down and welcome Hans Ittman, Manuel Laguna, Gilbert Laporte and Paolo Toth. By joining the Board you honour us and we welcome the advice that you will be able to offer. We are sorry to have to report the death of Isabel Themido who served on the Board for a number of years. Our condolences go to her family and colleagues.

We will soon be trying out a system for electronic handling of papers at the journal, which has been through an extensive design process. We hope that when implemented this will improve the turnaround of papers from submission to publication and will make life simpler for both authors and referees.

We hope that you have enjoyed the journal over the past year and will continue to do so with Volume 54 and in future years. We thank authors and referees for their continued support, and of course readers who continue to regard *JORS* as not only the oldest but also one of the world's leading OR Journals.

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and
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