Editorial

Igor Aleksander, *Editor in Chief*

It is tempting to write the first editorial for the first issue of a new journal by promising all manner of delights. However, there is only one promise to which I feel an overriding sense of obligation: the journal will not assume that what it does is best, but will always be flexible enough to experiment under the guidance of its readership. First and foremost, therefore, the aim of this journal is to act as a forum for the community of its readers. Its prime, but not exclusive, sources of material are the deliberations of the Association for Information Technology. In this issue, my own paper is based on my opening address of the inaugural meeting of the Association.

Two areas of experimentation are evident in this issue. The first is the publication of personal viewpoints by members of the Association. This is part of the community-creation aspect of the aims of the journal. The second relates to book abstracts: a recently published book of particular merit has been selected. As the aim of the journal is for the specialist in one area of information technology to address others, not specialized in the same area, this is the criterion applied when selecting such an extract. We are grateful to Tom Addis for his co-operation in this context, by allowing us to publish his introduction to knowledge-based systems.

Additionally, readers should find useful Frank Land's and Elizabeth Somogyi's discussion of software engineering, David Andrews's explanation of his IRG concept, and Ted Hutchin's thoughts on managerial implications.

As to the future, we plan to encourage a correspondence column, have a regular feature on state-of-the-art reports and strengthen our 'noticeboard'. But, above all, this journal is here to serve its readers. So please feel free to communicate with any member of the board, should you wish to publish your ideas, or just help to guide the journal along a path of increasing usefulness.