Editorial

Once again, we have a mixed bag of contents. In the Proceedings of the Association for December 1987 we explore the theme of microcomputer-based networks. J Howard Petrie looks at their impact on library and information services, commenting on the change in the image of libraries from a book storage place with a passive attitude to the supply of information to a more active role which utilizes all the resources of IT, micro-networking being of particular importance. Helen Pain-Lewins' paper relates to a study of the use of Prestel and The Times Network for Schools in British schools.

Decision-support systems and expert systems continue to receive a great deal of attention and Daniel T Lee's paper contributes to the dialogue on these topics, advocating an expert decision-support system.

The Personal View section of the Journal is wide-ranging. The Doukidis/Giannakos paper, unfortunately received too late for inclusion in *JIT* (3.1), relates to IT and legal issues explored in that edition. Duchastel and Imbeau look at intelligent computer-assisted instruction, while Adams and Hamm explore electronic highways. Anthony Kosky gives his view of developments in declarative programming languages, indicating that there are major weaknesses in this area.

We trust that you will find something of interest in the Journal but implore you, once again, to contact us on issues that concern you whether you agree or disagree with the views contained herein. It has been suggested that a quarterly journal is unable to support a column devoted to readers' letters as there is such a long delay between editions. On the other hand, may we suggest that a quarterly journal provides the reader with more time to place thoughts on paper! In any case, most of the issues do not disappear overnight even in this era of rapidly evolving technology.

Henry Holloway