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“Nothing I could use at all”

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"Nothing I could use at all"

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I received SJIS vol. 8, no. 1 a couple of days ago. Today I had some time, and I read two papers that looked very interesting to me - "A Framework For Software Risk Management" by Lyytinen, Mathiassen and Ropponen, and "Organisational Prototyping: Adopting CSCW Applications in Organisations" by Bardram. The articles interested me because I am a project manager, and among other projects I also manage software development projects. And I will start a project to adapt and introduce a standard system into a large organisation. Thus both articles should be relevant to me, as I don't think CSCW-applications are very different from other applications.

And I was really disappointed! The first article provides a framework for risk management which can be useful after

some elaboration, I think. But the generic questions are much too general to be of any practical use. The framework has been tested against two cases in retrospect. Very well. But it hasn't been applied in any projects yet. It hasn't even been discussed with project managers for a kind of quality assurance!

From the second article I learnt that we did organisational prototyping in the Florence project 10 years ago. But it was rather superfluous when it comes to more profound organisational problems, and it didn't say a lot about how to cope with technological constraints. It just said that the use of computers are embedded in an organisational context, but that isn't exactly revolutionary. Nothing I could use at all!

Then it dawned upon me that maybe I'm mistaken - maybe these articles aren't meant to inform me and other practition-

ers. This turns out to be right. The scope of SJIS says that the audience is information systems *researchers*, i.e. not practitioners. But why would researchers want to write this, and read this? Maybe because they want to inform practice? As such they don't contribute, even if I would very much like them to.

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