

Structural Changes in the BISE Editorial Board

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Journal rankings have significantly altered the way dissertation and academic tenure decisions are taken in management science and economics at universities across Europe. For example, Jourqual, the journal ranking published by the German Academic Association for Business Research, is often used as a guideline to evaluate the publication record of applicants for business schools. This has led to a growing importance of journals for academic evaluation. We are fully aware of the fact that journal publications represent only a fraction of a professor's broad spectrum of service contributions. Nevertheless, the quality of scientific contributions in our field is increasingly measured by journal publications. The reputation and standing of such a journal reflects on the community, and also the reputation of BISE is important for us as a community.

It is therefore essential to have a well-respected journal which shows the interests, the research habits, and traditions of BISE researchers. Take business process management (BPM) as an example. While articles on BPM have been published in almost all IS journals, it is the Europeans who play a leading role here, and the topic carries more weight in the European than in the US academic IS community. We should be proud of our contributions in such areas, and this fact should be reflected in our journal and in our editorial board. Overall, there are many reasons for all of us to further strengthen and develop the journal. We aim to establish BISE as one of the top European journals in IS.

All of these considerations have guided us through the recent changes in the editorial board and the governance structure of the journal. Let's briefly revisit the historical development, before we discuss the recent and unanimous decisions which the editorial board came to in Leipzig. BISE has been the flagship journal of our community for 50 years in the German-speaking countries. With a German language publication, the journal would always be restricted to the academic realm in this part of the world. The increasing internationalization of scientific research therefore led Hans Ulrich Buhl in 2009 to introduce the triple strategy. This strategy comprised a bilingual publication of all articles in the German WIRTSCHAFTSINFORMATIK in print and the English translation in the online journal BISE. At the same time, four departments were introduced and a number of international scholars joined the editorial board. All of these changes were important and helped us in rankings and in building our reputation as an overall high-quality journal.

The bilingual publication was a substantial effort, only possible due to the generous support by sponsors such as Allianz, Commerzbank, Deutsche Telekom, McKinsey, and SAP, but it was also important in the transition from a German-speaking to a European journal. It is now time to take the next steps in this direction. The financial burden of the translations, but also the time that authors invest, led the editorial board to decide that in future the journal will be published in English only. We will decide on the timing for this change in the coming months depending on several developments that have to be taken into account.

Apart from the language, we decided on a number of changes regarding the structure of the editorial board and the governance. We have set up seven new departments, which represent the main sub-communities of BISE, and I am pleased that national and international top scholars have signed up to serve as department editors. A complete list of the editorial board and its departments can be found online at <http://bise-journal.org.com>.

- IS Engineering and Technology
Vasant Dhar, New York University
Matthias Jarke, RWTH Aachen
- Computational Methods and Decision Support Systems
Leena Suhl, University of Paderborn
Stefan Voss, University of Hamburg
- Economics of IS
Detlef Schoder, University of Cologne
Rolf Wigand, University of Arkansas

- Business Process Management
Jörg Becker, University of Münster
Wil van der Aalst, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
- Enterprise Modeling and Enterprise IS
Dimitris Karagiannis, University of Vienna
Robert Winter, University of St. Gallen
- Management and Use of Knowledge and Information
Armin Heinzl, University of Mannheim
Dorothy Leidner, Baylor University
- IS Foundations and Research Methods
Ulrich Frank, University of Duisburg-Essen
Nik Hassan, University of Minnesota

These newly formed departments provide the journal with a distinct profile which is different from that of other IS journals, and illustrate the particularities of our community. From now on, members of the editorial board will be assigned to one of the departments. Department editors are appointed by the EiC team for three years. Associate editors will be appointed by the department editors and the EiC for one year or – if reappointed – for two years.

Also in the future we will have sections such as the catchword, interview, or a discussion section. Elmar Sinz (University of Bamberg) will continue to organize the Catchword. Alexander Mädche (University of Mannheim) will take over the Profile section from Armin Heinzl. The Discussion section will be organized by Dennis Kundisch (University of Paderborn), the spokesman of the section “Information Systems” (Wirtschaftsinformatik, WKWI) of the German Academic Association for Business Research (VHB), and Torsten Eymann (University of Bayreuth), the spokesman of the special interest group “Business Informatics” (GI-FB WI) of the Gesellschaft für Informatik e. V. (GI).

I am delighted that a number of renowned national and international scholars have joined the advisory board. These include Hans Ulrich Buhl (Augsburg University), Wolfgang König, (Goethe University Frankfurt), Günter Müller (University of Freiburg), and Elmar Sinz (University of Bamberg). These colleagues are senior editors who have very actively served the journal for around 20 years in leading roles. Paulo Goes (University of Arizona), the new EiC of MISQ, Robert Kauffman (Singapore Management University), Ramayya Krishnan (Dean at the Heinz School of the Carnegie Mellon University), and Carol Saunders (Central Florida University) will help us to connect to the international IS community.

Overall, we are ready to take off into a new phase of the journal and hope to further establish it as a top European journal in IS and additionally as a well-respected outlet in both computer science and the management sciences. Needless to say that BISE is a community effort and we need you to participate as authors, reviewers, or editorial board members. We are looking forward to your comments and to working with you in the future.

Martin Bichler (Editor-in-Chief)
Armin Heinzl and Robert Winter (Vice Editors-in-Chief)