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Communications of the **I**nformation **S**ystems
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Volume 2, Article 25
December 1999

CAIS-THE FIRST YEAR

A REPORT FROM THE EDITOR

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CAIS

CAIS –THE FIRST YEAR

A REPORT FROM THE EDITOR

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With the first year of publication for the Communications of AIS now complete, it is an appropriate time to review the status of the journal and where it is going.

STATISTICS

The over-all statistics for the two volumes in 1999 were:

Number of articles published	44
Number of letters published	4
Number of different authors	89
Total pages in .pdf ¹	1489

TOPICS

A fundamental idea of the Communications of AIS is that its role is to present articles that help IS professionals keep up with what is happening in the field. To meet this objective, CAIS published the following types of articles (the numbers add to more than 44 since some articles are counted in 2 areas)

¹ Total pages does not include the cover page or the list of editors. Each of these adds two pages to an article.

Research	16	Professional	8
Tutorials	10	Methodology	6
Teaching	8	Cases	3

Appendix A lists the articles published in each of these categories.

In terms of subject matter, CAIS tried to cover topics that are at or near the leading edge of the field, many of which have not yet reached the curriculum or are just now being tried as innovative courses. Table 1 lists, in alphabetical order, some of the topics on which articles were published.

Table 1. Partial List of Topics Covered By CAIS In 1999

Balanced Scorecard Analysis	Multimedia Networks
Collaborative Learning Environments	Personal Productivity
Customer Relationship Management	Project Management
Data Warehousing	Push and Pull technologies
E-commerce	Research Strategies in IS over time
Enterprise Resource Planning	Risk Assessment
Faculty recruiting	State of the IS Discipline
Knowledge Management	The Internet
Legacy Systems and Reengineering	Visualization
Mobile Computing	Year 2000

STRATEGY

The strategy followed by CAIS contains the following elements:

1. Publish articles that
 - teach the reader about current issues and ideas
 - are of broad interest
 - open new areas for research and teaching
 - are timely
 - provide case examples for teaching.
 - deal with professional issues

Obviously, each article will deal with only some of these areas

2. Invite tutorials, papers on hot topics, and opinions

Examples include recent tutorials on ethnographic research, action research, and project management; two papers on Y2K issues, and long opinion pieces the basis for the field, research relevancy, and the journal review process.

3. Obtain papers by “known” people to give the journal credibility.

As a new journal published electronically, it is important that CAIS receive recognition so that it continues to attract excellent work and so that contributions by junior people coming up for review or tenure be recognized as publication in a significant place. CAIS is fortunate to have published contributions by many people who are well known in the field, including Presidents of AIS, authors of well-known books, and top researchers. Articles by these senior people is intended to give a clear signal that the leadership in the profession considers CAIS an important venue in our field.

CAIS is fortunate to have a number of people who published two articles during the year, including (alphabetically) Steven Alter, Gordon Davis, Christopher P. Holland, Don McCubbrey, and Richard Watson.

4. Use the “electronic” capability of the journal.

Because CAIS is an electronic journal, it is able to overcome many of the limitations of conventional print journals. Table 2 lists some of these advantages that are already in used and gives examples of where they have been applied. CAIS expects that future articles will include audio, video, frames, and other multimedia capabilities.

Table 2. Features of CAIS Articles that Use Electronic Capabilities.

Feature	Examples
No limit on the size of articles	Vol. 1 Nos. 13, No. 16, and Volume 2 No. 22 are between 68 and 72 pages in .pdf
Use of color and complex graphics	See, for example, Volume 1, No. 4
Letters to the Editor about an article are appended at the end of the article	See for example, Vol. 2, No 3. and Vol. 2 No 12
CAIS publishes in both .htm and .pdf	True for every article
Use of hyperlinks	Now true for many articles

5. Provide quick turnaround

For many authors, the ability to publish quickly is important. As pointed out in Vol. 2, Article 14, the typical article in other IS journals is published two or more years after it is submitted. In keeping with CAIS' role of publishing information about currently relevant material, the journal aims to reduce this time. By publishing articles as they are accepted, the delay and backlog between acceptance and publication is virtually eliminated. Furthermore, by a vigilant policy of trying to move to acceptance quickly (including the review alternatives discussed in item 6) , what is usually the longest part of the publication process – the time from receipt of an article to its acceptance – is reduced significantly. The shortest time from receipt to publication thus far is eight days.

6. Alternate forms of review

Authors have the option of asking for normal peer review or asking for associate editor review. In the former case, an associate editor hands the paper as in any review process, with the admonition to obtain reviews quickly. The fact that an article was fully peer reviewed is noted at the end of the article. In the latter case, the article is either accepted or rejected by the associate editor. Once an authors selects a form of review, it cannot be changed. This rule is imposed so that authors rebuffed by one option, do not try the other.

7. A diverse, international editorial board.

In many respects, a journal is only as good as its editorial board. CAIS is particularly proud to have a very distinguished editorial board that includes people from large schools and small schools, man and women, who come from places as diverse as Australia, Canada, Finland, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, United Kingdom, and the United States. The board meets regularly at AIS-sponsored meetings such as AMAIS and ICIS. Their input was particularly helpful during 1999. In particular, I want to thank Chris Holland of the Manchester Business School in the UK who edited a “special focus issue” that resulted in eight articles on legacy information systems and business process change.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Letters to the Editor. Late in the year CAIS introduced a new feature, Letters to the Editor. Two kinds of letters started appearing: The first are letters in response to articles. Because CAIS is an electronic journal, it is possible to append such letters at the end of the article. An envelope appears next to the article name in the directory to show the presence of letters. During 1999, Vol. 2 Articles 3 and 12 contain letters.

The second kind of letter is freestanding. It typically presents a new subject or idea. A letter and response dealing with the role of end users was published in December.

Readers are encouraged to submit letters. They will be published quickly. Usually, the author will be given an opportunity to respond if she or he so chooses.

Annual Report of the President. CAIS published Grodon Davis' AIS President's report. The journal intends to publish this report each year so that readers can keep up with the growth of AIS.

Multimedia Cases A teaching case is in work that uses the multimedia capabilities of the Internet. The case will be published in two ways: the .htm

version will use the full capabilities of the system. The .pdf version will be straight text.

HOW AUTHORS CAN HELP

Authors can help themselves be published quickly and create outstanding papers by following a few simple steps:

1. Turn articles around quickly. Very often, the editorial board will come back with comments and the author will not respond for some time. Such delays make the journal less current. Similarly, authors must proofread their articles before they are published.
2. Use the style manual. It can be found at <http://cais.aisnet.org/format.asp>. In particular, be sure that formats and references follow the form indicated in the style manual. .
3. Write in an active voice rather than a passive voice (for example, “Jones shows that ...” rather than “it has been shown by Jones that...”)
4. Use the multimedia capabilities available, including more figures.
5. Use hyperlinking where appropriate, but do not simply hyperlink to every reference.

HOW READERS CAN HELP

Readers of CAIS can help the publication and AIS in a number of ways:

1. Write articles, particularly in new areas. Or, if you know of someone who is doing innovative work, let the editor know (cais@cgu.edu) and the article will be solicited. The articles should be well written, informative, and meet the criteria discussed at the beginning of this report.
2. Critique what CAIS publishes. Write a Letter to the Editor if you agree or disagree with a particular article. CAIS publishes selected letters.

3. Tell colleagues in your school what CAIS is about that that articles are important.

CONCLUSIONS

The first year of CAIS was exciting. The IS community published a large number of important articles through CAIS. Your contribution through writing new articles will move the journal forward as an important part of our profession.

APPENDIX A

DISTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED 1999

Type of Article	Volume 1 Article Nos.	Volume 2 Article Nos.
Research	7,11,15,16,18,20	3,4,5,6,7,8,10,15,20,21,24
Tutorial	1,4,10,14	1,13,17,18,19,23
Teaching	2,8,9,12,17,18	16,22
Professional	5,13,18	11,12,13,14, Letter1
Methodology	3,8	19,20,21,23
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