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Panel: Launching a Journal in the ERA of Web 2.0
The Case of JSAIS

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OVERVIEW

Based on a need for quality venues of scholarly work, the Southern Association for Information Systems voted, at their 2008 annual meeting, to sponsor an online scholarly journal. The journal will be a classical, peer reviewed journal. Its emphasis will be on originality, importance, and cogency of ideas, with a broad focus emphasizing various research methodologies and inclusive of interdisciplinary investigations. The intent is to publish articles that adhere to the highest scholarly research standards and be inclusive in the publication process. JSAIS will distinguish itself by closely working with authors to develop submitted work. The founding JSAIS committee is working to launch the journal in the very near future. However, to remain as inclusive as possible, the committee is investigating different ways in which the review process might be implemented. Several models are evolving in academic review methods. The purpose of this panel is to introduce those methods and identify ways they might be adapted to meet JSAIS needs. The panel will be asking for commentary from participants.

STRUCTURE OF THE PANEL

The panel members include those leading the launches of JSAIS. Craig VanSlyke is the Editor-in-Chief, Bill Lomerson is the Managing Editor and Meg Murray is the liaison between JSAIS and SAIS.

The panel session will begin with a short presentation of the mission of JSAIS. This will be followed by an overview of possible review methods that might be implemented for JSAIS. One process that will be introduced is a two-stage review process based on that developed by Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (http://www.atmospheric-chemistry-and-physics.net/review/index.html), which is a publication of the European Geosciences Union. The review process is intended to speed the cycle time for review while at the same time allowing for broader commentary from the community. This process includes a period for public discussion followed by traditional peer-review. We will also present an overview of Google’s Knol project for consideration as a possible model for the technological implementation of the review process.

Following this overview the panel will propose a model for the JSAIS review process and open the floor for discussion of the model. Strengths and weaknesses, pros and cons will be discussed.

The panel will be highly interactive. Questions and comments will be encouraged throughout the session. By making the panel interactive, panelists will be able to draw from the experiences and comments of audience members in order to evolve the proposed JSAIS review process into an initial implementation model.