

EDITORIAL

This is the second issue of the International Journal on Computers, Systems, and Signals (<http://research.i2r.a-star.edu.sg/iaamsad/ijcss/>) for 2005. The issue is a diverse one, just like the field of computers and systems thinking. It is covering several areas – Bioinformatics, Multicriteria Decision Support Systems, IT certification and human resource management, technology use and management of e-waste. Our authors come from reputable institutions from various countries – Singapore, South Africa and the United States.

This issue begins with an overview of heuristic procedures for motif extraction from DNA sequences. It is produced by a Bioinformatics team (Liang Yang, Enli Huang and Vladimir B Bajic) from the Knowledge Extraction Lab of the Institute for Infocomm Research in Singapore. That work is a useful summary of all available methods for that purpose and is of interest both to practitioners and researchers.

The second paper deals with issues in Group Decision Support Systems (GDSS). It is authored by N. Kunene, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA. Its value is that it is dealing with a Multicriteria GDSS environment, using the Analytic Hierarchy Process by Saaty, which is not common in the literature on GDSS. Another positive feature of it is that it is a field experiment, distinguishing it from the many laboratory experiments in that field. Its results are a replication of previous theoretical results in the South African environment.

The practical application of a multicriteria decision support system for the selection of telecommunications equipment in the area of rural telecommunications is the scope of the third paper: Enhancing the selection of communication technology for rural telecommunications: An Analytic Hierarchy Process Model by T. N. Andrew, P. Rahoo, and T. Nepal from South Africa. It presents the results from one of the projects at the Center for Excellence in Rural Telecommunications at the Durban Institute of Technology which is of interest to those working in telecommunications infrastructure planning.

The fourth paper presents research in progress: Understanding managers' intent to use IT certification as a selection tool in the hiring process by D. Scott Hunsinger from North Carolina, USA. This is another category of research papers that this journal supports in order to enable fast spread of relevant ideas for IT research and practice. It deals with a practical issue- how various professional IT certifications may affect the attitudes of IT and Human Resource managers towards job applicants. The paper was initially presented at the Doctoral Symposium of the ISOneWorld Conference 2005, organized by the Information Institute. A special issue with the best papers from that symposium is due in 2006. However this topic is hot and though the paper deals only with the ideas for the study, it was considered worthy of publication. Further results on the topic might be obtained from its author.

The fifth paper, The impact of computer systems such as intranets on human behavior, by A. C Leonard and L. Jacobs from South Africa, presents the results of a very well designed research project. They conclude that Intranets have a very positive impact on communication and collaboration within a multi cultural working environment. Their results may be used also for comparisons to other business organizations to determine where improvement and marketing of the Intranet is necessary

The last paper: Reverse logistics in the computer industry by K. Dhanda and A. A. Peters from Chicago, USA, presents a detailed analysis and certain recommendations on how to deal with the increasing amount of waste in the form of discarded computers and other electronic components. The authors apply a reverse logistics hierarchy to determine what steps are being taken in the industry and presents some suggested solutions to the problem from a systems theory perspective. The latter is a valuable aspect of their recommendations as most of the existing practices are limited in their impact on industry since they currently serve the narrow interests of certain stakeholders.

This is the last issue for 2005. We are planning an increase of the number of issues in 2006 to three. It will reflect the increased interest in the journal in terms of number of submissions and also the wider scope of the journal after 2003 to include papers from all aspects of the field of computing, systems thinking, Information Systems and certain topics in Control Systems. We would like to get some feedback from the readers on the expanded scope of the journal. If you have any suggestions please send them to

petkovd@easternct.edu. Together with Prof V. Bajic we will continue in our efforts to improve the quality of the journal.

As usual, I am grateful to the reviewers for their valuable contribution and selfless support for the journal.

I hope you find the articles in the second issue of IJCSS for 2005 interesting.

Sincerely yours,

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