Welcome to the first issue of the International Journal of Business Intelligence Research.

The purpose of the journal is to explore and expand our understanding of business intelligence so as to improve its practice in organizations. To accomplish this, IJBIR seeks high quality articles from both academics and practitioners all of which are subject to peer-review.

My goal for initiating this journal is to provide a forum for critical thinking about BI as well as the factors that affect it. I wanted to create a journal that would expand research and commentary about BI issues while helping to promote the view that BI is not simply technical in nature. That is, I wanted to create a journal whose articles served to encourage the vision that BI is a multifaceted and multidisciplinary discipline.

In 1958, business intelligence was defined by Hans Peter Luhn, an IBM researcher, as the ability to apprehend the interrelationships of presented facts in such a way as to guide actions towards a desired goal. In 1989, Howard Dresner proposed BI as an umbrella term to describe the concepts and methods to improve business decision-making by using fact-based support systems. Neither person mentioned technology per se in their definitions.

Today, the practice of BI clearly employs technology. However, it is prudent to remember that BI is also about organizational decision-making, analytics, information and knowledge management, decision flows and processes, and human interaction. That means that BI involves a wide-range of peripheral issues. For example, BI while involves evidence-based decision-making and knowledge creation and sharing, and it is affected by organizational culture and other behavioral elements. Moreover, the practice of BI affects a wide range of decision-making domains (e.g., fraud detection, security, CRM, credit, sales and marketing).

The current issue of IJBIR reflects the diversity of BI-related issues. Tom Davenport explores organizational decision-making and his interviews with organizational managers suggest that the relationship between information and decisions needs to be brought into closer alignment. Barbara Wixom and Hugh Watson provide an overview of BI and they discuss the opportunities for academic research in this field. David Steiger explores the relationship between BI and knowledge creation and he proposes a business intelligence design theory. Drs. Yermish, Miori, Yi, Malhotra, and Klimberg argue that the technological developments of the world-wide-web and very inexpensive mass storage have enabled an environment that facilitates the convergence of business operations and decision support into a strategic application. Finally, Drs. Corral, Schuff, Schymik, and St. Louis explore document search effectiveness. They provide evidence to support an alternative and more effective approach to document management where subject indexes are incorporated into the document search process.

It is my hope that persons from a variety of professional backgrounds will contribute to this journal. BI is an important and complex domain that warrants examination from both theoretical and practical dimensions. It is my intention that this journal will serve to educate and inform BI while also helping others to better understand exactly what BI is, what it does, and why and how it is important to organizations.