This is the beginning of my third year as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Database Management. The past two years have been very rewarding and fulfilling for me. I mentioned in the editorial preface for the first issue of 2001 (exactly two years ago) that I would like to contribute to JDM in three ways. The first goal then was to broaden the scope of JDM. In addition to the database area, we wanted to invite submissions from researchers in systems analysis and design, and software engineering areas. Systems analysis and design, and software engineering are very tightly linked to the database area. In fact, many researchers contribute to all three areas at the same time. My second goal was to attract more international submissions, especially from Europe. In this global age, a journal needs to be relevant worldwide and not restricted to a country or a single continent. My third goal was to move JDM to an electronic submission and reviewing process.

I am pleased to say that with your help we have managed to achieve all three objectives. The current editorial board consists of world-class researchers in the areas of database, systems analysis and design, and software engineering. In addition to high-quality database papers, JDM has published excellent papers in the areas of systems analysis and design, and software engineering during the past two years. We are also receiving more submissions from all continents of the world. For example, in this issue, two of the papers are authored by researchers from Europe, and one by researchers from Korea. This represents the worldwide visibility and recognition of the journal. Regarding the third objective of implementing an electronic submission and reviewing process, I am glad to say that the system has been functioning for nearly two years and has been running smoothly. The electronic submission and reviewing system allows us to shorten the reviewing cycle tremendously. For the past two years, we have usually been able to provide a first round review for a submission within three months.

So, what are my goals for the next two years? First, I am planning to have JDM included in the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) Web of Science list journals. The main reason is that we want JDM to be included in the citation count compiled by ISI. The fact that JDM is not currently part of the ISI list of journals does not diminish the value of publications in JDM. In fact, JDM’s articles are
included in a long list of indices such as ABI/Inform, Emerald Abstracts, Burrelles, Cabell’s Directory, Computer Literature Index, DETYA Register of Refereed Journals, EBSCOhost’s Business Source Elite, EBSCOhost’s Business Source Premier, EBSCO’s Computer Source - Technical Edition, Gale Directory of Publications & Broadcast Media, GetCited, Information Science Abstracts, INSPEC, Internet and Personal Computing Abstracts, Library and Information Science Abstracts, Library Literature and Information Science, MediaFinder, PubList.com, Standard Periodical Directory, and Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory. However, in a quest to further enhance the value of publications in JDM, I aim to have JDM included as part of the ISI list of journals in about five or six years time. The need for a longer timeframe is that ISI only considers a journal for inclusion every two years and the next round of consideration for JDM is 2004.

Second, I would like to continue to improve the ranking of JDM in the MIS field. I am pleased to report that JDM was ranked very highly by Walstrom and Hardgrave’s 2001 article published in the Information and Management journal. JDM is undoubtedly a highly regarded journal in the MIS area. My goal is to further improve the ranking of JDM, and in particular, we want to make JDM one of the top technical journals in the MIS area. JDM, as its name implies, is not a general MIS journal. JDM does not publish papers related to organizational behaviour, organizational strategies, etc. As such, JDM is a niche journal and a well-recognized journal focused on the technical aspects of MIS. My goal is for JDM to become the premier journal in this area.

My third goal is to increase the availability of JDM articles through various electronic portals (e.g., ABI/Inform). This is vital to the growth and visibility of the journal. We are fortunate that the publisher has been working hard on this and JDM articles can now be downloaded from a number of indices such as ABI/Inform.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editorial board members of JDM for their contribution of time and effort. It is only with their help that we manage to secure the current reputation and status for JDM.