Preface

A remarkable surge in information technologies within the past two decades has spawned many new challenges to organization in information management. The information technologies have presented decision makers in organizations with many innovative ways in managing information in a much more effective and timely manner. Today, decision makers at all levels of organizations can have access to all sorts of information instantaneously, that a decade ago it could not have dreamed of. No longer do decision makers have to wait for information systems specialist to satisfy their information requirements by developing lengthy computer programs to access humongous data files. Instead, many users of information systems have access to databases that can be easily accessed for obtaining their desired information.

With the new advances of information technologies and the need for utilizing these technologies by decision makers in organizations, many users have become highly competent in developing applications around the existing information technologies. In many documented cases, users have managed to develop user-oriented information systems around the technologies of microcomputers that have astonished the veterans of information technologies professionals. In recent years, many organizations have moved from centralized operating information systems toward more user controlled information processing systems.

One can argue that the reluctance of information technology professionals in the decades of 70’s and 80’s regarding the emerging trends in greater utilization of information technologies and by decision makers, and the availability of easy to use hardware and software technologies by users, have led to the formation of a new generation of information technology users and managers better commonly known as END USERS and the way they utilize information technologies to satisfy their needs known as END USER COMPUTING. The concept of end user computing has provided many researchers and managers challenging opportunities to examine new methods of information utilization and management in organizations.

Much has been written about the concept of end user computing or user information processing and management and the challenges they offers. This new generation of information users and managers have been facing a tremendous number of challenges to keep up with the emerging information technologies and various managerial and organizational issues of end user computing concepts.

In an attempt to provide a much broader forum for dissemination of knowledge regarding user information processing and management, recently, the Journal of Microcomputer Systems Management (JMSM) was renamed as the Journal of End User Computing (JEUC). This change of name has been the result of an extensive research and assessment of this journal and how it can serve its readership more effectively. Furthermore, the mission and coverage of the journal have been broadened to provide a much user-oriented reporting of the issues in the area of user information processing and management. The journal, still the official publication of the Information Resources Management Association, will satisfy the needs of information users or those members of the association who are either personally involved in user information processing and management or have an interest in this concept. As always, your comments are encouraged are greatly valued.

Mehdi Khosrowpour, D.B.A. Editor-In-Charge

Announcement

We would like to welcome our three new associate editors, Drs. Anil Aggarwal, Julie Kendall, and Gary Grudnitski, as well as our new members of the Editorial Review Board. We would also like to take this opportunity and thank all our departing reviewers for their valuable contribution toward this journal.