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# Publications by Researchers and Institutions in Two Top IS Journals: 1990-1994

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## Background

Several years ago Professor Bill Remus of the University of Hawaii reported on the most prolific researchers and institutions in the IS field based on an analysis of IS publications over a previous 5 year period in each case (Remus, 1989; 1991). These analyses, which were printed in the *MIS Interrupt*, proved to be useful for faculty promotion and tenure decisions as well as for individual and institutional hiring decisions. Moreover, prospective doctoral students may have also found the results helpful in selecting programs for advanced study. Finally, the findings very likely satisfied a certain intellectual curiosity on the part of the community as a whole.

In a vein similar to Professor Remus' analyses, the present analysis is based on articles published in the five years just past, specifically the period from January, 1990 to December, 1994. One major change has been made, however, to the previous methodology. In ranking institutions, credit has been given to the school where the author of published articles is currently located, giving a view of the schools that are currently most active in the IS research arena.

## Methodology

The procedure used in the present analysis followed Professor Remus' approach in two major ways. First, authorship credit was partialled out according to the number of authors. That is, for an article with two authors, each author received a .500 article credit; for an article with three authors, each author received a .333 article credit; and so forth. Second, as with Remus' studies, the sample selection was based on a set of journals that represented the best scholarship in the field.

That being said, the specific journals selected for the present study were: (1) *MIS Quarterly* [MISQ] and (2) *Information Systems Research* [ISR]. The justification for surveying the scholarship in these particular journals is that these journals have achieved an undisputed reputation for being among the top journals in the IS field.<sup>1</sup> They have been and will no doubt continue to be a preferred outlet vehicles for the best IS research. Moreover, while the reference base for scientific articles in these journals ranges widely across the organizational, engineering, economics, and mathematical sciences, articles in these journals invariably deal with aspects of information technology and information systems, a subject which lies at the heart of the discipline.

Many other excellent journals, some strictly IS and others broader in scope, could have been surveyed, but there is every indication that even limited sampling via these two

journals provides at least one perspective on IS research productivity and shows where research activity is occurring.

Institutional assignments for research were made on the basis of the institution with which a researcher is currently affiliated.<sup>2</sup> As Eom (1994) argues in his study of the top DSS institutions, what is most critical in understanding the intellectual sea changes taking place in a field is not where researchers have been located in the past, but where they are located presently. He goes on to argue that it is of interest to learn which institutions have attracted such talent and are building research programs around a certain base of expertise.

## Results

The results of the coding and data analysis of 453 article attributions over the last five years from January, 1990 to December, 1994 are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Holding down the top positions among the most prolific IS researchers are: first, Detmar Straub of Georgia State University, second, Sirkka Jarvenpaa of UT, Austin, and third, Izak Benbasat of UBC. It is heartening to find on Table 1 a relatively large number of researchers who have entered the field within the last ten years as well as more senior, established researchers.

Findings for the 30 most prolific institutions (Table 2) gives the impression that there has been some movement among IS programs over the last five years. Some of these changes are, no doubt, the result of the journals sampled, but others are suggestive in and of themselves, reflecting in part the movement of some of the more prolific researchers from one school to another.

## References

Eom, Seon B. "Ranking Institutional Contributions to Decision Support Systems Research: A Citation Analysis," *Data Base*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (February), 35-42.

Remus, William (1989). "Articles Published in the Top Four MIS Journals: 1984-1988," *MIS Interrupt*, The Faculty of Management, The University of Calgary, No. 43, p. 5.

Remus, William (1991). "Articles Published in the Top Four MIS Journals: 1986-1990," *MIS Interrupt*, The Faculty of Management, The University of Calgary, No. 50, pp. 2-3.

## Endnotes

1. Clearly these are not the only top journals in the field and many other excellent journals could have been included. In the IS arena, for instance, the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Information & Management*, and *Data Base* could have been chosen without exhausting the list of good journals that focus on IS issues. Journals with a broader charter, such as *Management Science*, *Communications of the ACM*, and *Organization Science*, could also have served as could journals stressing

practice like the *Harvard Business Review* and the *Sloan Management Review*. Nevertheless, *MISQ* and *ISR* are a subset that few would question as representing the best scholarship in the field.

2. Affiliation assignments were based on researcher listings in the latest *MISRC Directory* (edited by Janice DeGross) and on changes in affiliations since the last printed version of this directory.

**Table 1. Most Prolific IS Researchers--1990-1994**

Rank	Author	University	Total Article Credits
1	Straub, Detmar	Georgia State University	3.250
2	Jarvenpaa, Sirkka	University of Texas, Austin	2.667
3	Benbasat, Izak	University of British Columbia	2.500
3	Orlikowski, Wanda	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2.500
5	Robey, Daniel	Florida International University	2.200
6	Ives, Blake	Southern Methodist University	2.083
7	Silver, Mark	New York University	2.000
7	Watson, Richard	University of Georgia	2.000
9	Barki, Henri	Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales	1.833
10	Igbaria, Magid	Drexel University	1.667
10	Watson, Hugh	University of Georgia	1.667
12	Alavi, Maryam	University of Maryland	1.500
12	Beath, Cynthia	Southern Methodist University	1.500
12	Elam, Joyce	Florida International University	1.500
12	Hartwick, Jon	McGill University	1.500
12	Kozar, Kenneth	University of Colorado, Boulder	1.500
12	Mendelson, Haim	Stanford University	1.500
12	Newman, Michael	University of Manchester	1.500
12	Szajna, Bernadette	Texas Christian University	1.500
20	Nelson, R. Ryan	University of Virginia	1.333

20	Todd, Peter	Queen's University	1.333
20	Torkzadeh, Gholamreza	University of Texas, El Paso	1.333
23	Wetherbe, James	University of Minnesota	1.250
24	Bostrom, Robert	University of Georgia	1.167
24	Gurbaxani, Vijay	University of California, Irvine	1.167
24	Higgins, Chris	University of Western Ontario	1.167
24	Olfman, Lorne	Claremont Graduate School	1.167
24	Prietula, Michael	University of Florida	1.167
24	Stein, Maung	Florida International University	1.167

**Table 2. Most Prolific Universities--1990-1994**

Rank	University	Total Article Credits
1	New York University	5.667
2	Florida International University	5.367
3	University of British Columbia	5.333
4	University of Texas, Austin	5.200
5	University of Georgia	5.083
6	Georgia State University	4.917
7	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4.750
8	Carnegie Mellon University	4.500
9	university of California, Irvine	4.250
10	University of Minnesota	4.083
11	Southern Methodist University	3.833
12	Drexel University	3.667
13	Ecole des hautes Etudes Commerciales	3.333
14	University of Pittsburgh	3.250
15	Northeastern University	3.167

16	University of Memphis	2.917
17	University of Colorado, Boulder	2.833
18	McGill University	2.583
19	Harvard Business School	2.500
19	Stanford University	2.500
21	Univrstity of South Florida	2.417
22	University of Toledo	2.333
23	Auburn Univeristy	2.250
24	Texas Christian University	2.000
24	University of Colorado, Denver	2.000
24	University of Manchester	2.000