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Goals, Values, and Expectations of the AIS Family of Journals

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Goals, Values, and Expectations of the AIS Family of Journals

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Abstract:

The Association for Information Systems (AIS) is the premier professional association for individuals and organizations that lead the research, teaching, practice, and study of information systems. It serves society through advancing knowledge and promoting excellence in the practice and study of information systems. To that end, the AIS hosts seven academic journals: *Journal of the Association for Information Systems (JAIS)*, *Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS)*, *AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interactions (THCI)*, *AIS Transactions on Replication Research (TRR)*, *Pacific Asia Journal of the Association for Information Systems (PAJAIS)*, *Revista Latinoamericana y del Caribe de la Asociación de Sistemas de Información (RELCAS)*, and *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS)*. In this editorial statement, we summarize the different mission statements for each journal; describe their different audiences, goals, and markets; and identify their shared values, requirements, and resources. We do so to assist AIS members to identify the most suitable journal outlet for their research.

Keywords: AIS Journals, Journal Mission, Journal Review Processes, Journal Values, Replication, Open Science, Publication Ethics.

* Except for the first author, author names are ordered alphabetically.

1 Introduction

The Association for Information Systems (AIS) offers a wide range of benefits that makes it possible for our members to attend conferences, network with other IS academics, join chapters and SIGS, and take advantage of career services. However, the benefit that its members have always rated most highly is the AIS eLibrary (<http://aisel.aisnet.org/>). The eLibrary offers access to seven AIS journals, four chapter journals, nine affiliated journals, and numerous proceedings of international and regional conferences. The AIS-affiliated journals that AIS members can access include *Management Information Systems Quarterly (MISQ)*, *Business & Information Systems Engineering (BISE)*, *European Journal of Information Systems (EJIS)*, *Foundations and Trends in Information Systems, Health Systems, Information Systems Journal (ISJ)*, *Journal of Information Technology Theory and Application (JITTA)*, *MIS Quarterly Executive (MISQE)*, and *Systèmes d'Information et Management*.

In this paper, we describe the AIS family of seven journals: *Journal of the Association for Information Systems (JAIS)*, *Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS)*, *AIS Transactions of Human-Computer Interaction (THCI)*, *AIS Transactions on Replication Research (TRR)*, *Pacific Area Journal of the Association for Information Systems (PAJAIS)*, *Scandinavian Journal of IS (SJIS)*, and *Revista Latinoamericana y del Caribe de la Asociación de Sistemas de Información (RELCASI)*. Each member of our journal family plays a special role in supporting the needs of our members. *JAIS* is our flagship journal for peer-reviewed research. *CAIS* is the main journal for communications of research findings, panels, commentaries and other matters of broad interest to the community. The transaction journals fill a specific topical niche. The regional journals highlight particular research traditions and topics of interest in different parts of the world. In this paper, the editors-in-chiefs (EICs) of the AIS journals describe the role that their journal plays. In doing so, we try to meaningfully separate the missions and target markets for these main journals.

We hope this paper will help prospective authors in identifying the most suitable outlets for their research. The EICs describe the mission and specific submission requirements relevant to their journals. In Table 1, we provide journal statistics that are available for the journals and describe the differences in their decision making structures. In Table 2, we summarize what authors might consider when deciding to submit to the different journals. We believe prospective authors will see both as valuable decision aids.

Some common themes emerge when reading about our journals. All AIS journals are peer reviewed and typically use double-blind reviews; some also include optional variations peer-review variants such as single-blind reviews or editorial reviews. All focus on providing authors with fair and developmental reviews. The EICs are “in the business of publishing”; that is, they want to publish papers and their review teams will work with authors to produce publishable papers. However, even if a journal rejects a paper, we hope that the paper’s authors will not feel that they wasted the time they spent during the review process. Even rejected submissions will receive suggestions about how the authors could perfect their research strategy and revise their papers for other journals.

As Table 1 indicates, most of our journals have average review turnaround times in the 30 to 60 day range. Longer reviews (those that take more than 60 days) do not take more time because the EICs are not working to lower the review times. Sometimes it simply takes longer to get good reviews from qualified (volunteer) reviewers—and, ultimately, the editor’s decision tends to be in favor of obtaining a quality review even if it takes longer than desirable.

The AIS journals also share similar values in terms of the publication of papers previously presented at conferences, replication studies, and plagiarism. Presenting papers at conferences allows authors the opportunity to vet their ideas before submitting them to journals. Thus, one important feature of the AIS journals is authors can submit conference papers to any AIS journal without change (though it often behooves authors to revise their papers to reflect insightful comments made about them at the conference).

Another important feature of the AIS family of journals is our belief in the value of replication. A recent National Public Radio (2017) broadcast talked about a researcher from the drug company Amgen. He wanted to replicate the 53 studies that reported positive findings and pointed to a highly promising drug. The researcher was able to replicate the findings of only six of the 53 studies. The NPR broadcast concluded that the findings of many medical studies have been wrong and could prove detrimental to the advancement of science and people’s lives. We believe that replication is important not only in biomedicine but also in our discipline. Consequently, we are proactively working together to encourage

more replication studies, and our family includes a journal dedicated to replication: *AIS Transactions on Replication Research*.

Finally, all AIS journals also endorse the AIS Code of Research Conduct and require prospective authors to adhere to it when submitting their papers. One can find the code at (<http://aisnet.org/page/AdmBullCResearchCond>). The journals also expect authors to maintain research and data provenance.

We hope that this paper proves 1) useful in helping authors understand both the missions and values our journals embrace in moving information systems research forward and 2) instructive in helping authors find the best marketplace for their ideas.

2 The Mission, Philosophy, and Processes of the AIS Journals

2.1 Journal of the Association for Information Systems (JAIS)

2.1.1 Mission

The *Journal of the Association for Information Systems (JAIS)* is “the “flagship journal of the Association for Information Systems”, and it “publishes the highest quality scholarship in the field of information systems”. It publishes an issue every month. It embraces inclusivity in terms of “topics, level and unit of analysis, theory, method, and philosophical and research approach, reflecting all aspects of Information Systems globally. The journal promotes innovative, interesting, and rigorously developed conceptual and empirical contributions” that are based on “multi- or inter-disciplinary research” (AIS, n.d.). Theoretical contributions are valued but not considered an absolute necessity.

The *Journal of the Association for Information Systems* publishes many different types of papers, but most fall in the following categories:

- Research papers
- Research perspectives
- Review and theory development, and
- Interdisciplinary and path-breaking research

Occasionally, the journal may also publish:

- Editorials or guest editorials
- Dialogs
- Research notes, and
- Invited papers such as those authored by LEO Award winners.

Authors can find specific details about the above categories at <http://aisel.aisnet.org/jais/authorinfo.html>. Occasionally, the journal offers the opportunity to contribute on a specific theme through “special issue” calls.

2.1.2 Editorial Structure

The editorial board includes leading scholars in the discipline, many with significant editorial experience in other top-ranked journals of the IS discipline. The editorial board focuses on providing meaningful feedback that not only contributes to the decision on a manuscript (whether accept, revise and resubmit, or reject) but also to its development—even if *JAIS* does not publish it. The review process typically involves a two-tier system; that is, senior editors make decisions based on reviews from editorial board members and other scholars. Sometimes, senior editors may make decisions on a manuscript without input from reviewers based on reading the manuscript themselves. A discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the senior editors in the discipline is available in Sarker et al. (2015). One can characterize the typical review process that authors experience as demanding but charitable. We believe that, in most cases, regardless of the outcome of the review process, most authors can expect to obtain valuable feedback to develop their work further.

Each year, the journal formally recognizes the best paper(s), best reviewers and other outstanding contributors to the review process, and the senior editor of the year’s best paper(s).

2.2 Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS)

2.2.1 Mission

AIS established the *Communications of the Association for Information Systems* (CAIS) in 1999 with the late Paul Gray as the founding editor-in-chief. *J AIS* and *CAIS* were the two inaugural journals of the newly formed Association for Information Systems.

CAIS focuses on fostering the free flow of ideas in the IS community: it emphasizes original, important, and cogent ideas. It is also a vehicle for case studies, tutorials, commentaries, debates, IS pedagogy and other materials of general interest to the IS community, and, of course, “traditional” research papers as long as they are novel, original, or otherwise unique. It strives to publish papers that would have difficulties getting accepted in other journals.

Specifically, *CAIS* provides an outlet for papers and matters that fall outside the focus of many research journals, such as:

- Tutorials on the state of the art
- Opinion columns, commentaries and debates
- IS education and pedagogical scholarship
- Research trends and analyses
- History and philosophy of the IS discipline
- Panel reports from leading conferences, and
- Innovations and novel concepts.

2.2.2 Editorial Philosophy

Four key differentiators define *CAIS*'s philosophy.

First, the journal, in its role as a communications journal, has a **broad purview** (which the *CAIS* website clearly states in the “about the journal” section). We strive to publish a broad range of research papers, such as papers that may find it difficult to make it into our top journals, IS pedagogy papers, commentaries, reflections, debates, panel discussions, and papers on scholarly matters worth communicating to the association's members.

Second, the journal has an **inclusive mindset** on topics, paper styles, and genres. We urge everyone involved in our reviewing to avoid putting on a “traditional research review” hat. We adhere by guidelines such as “be a rigor gatekeeper but not an ideology gatekeeper”. We attempt where possible to avoid judgments such as “this paper is not an IS paper” or “this methodology is not right”. Overall, we strive to encourage openness in our review processes, which is also why we peruse a single-blind review process and disclose in most cases the names of editors who handle a paper. We seek to publish innovative, original, and relevant (to the AIS) papers. In particular, we strive to consider “different” submissions and those that would struggle to find consideration in other, traditional IS research journals. By contrast, we would opt not to consider “normal” research papers and those without a difference in topic, originality, contribution, or genre. One could rather submit these papers to another AIS journal.

Third, the journal has a **rapid turnaround**. *CAIS* does not encourage a culture of multiple, extended rounds of review. We strive to give a fast initial decision. When we invite authors to revise and they return their revision for a second round of review, we expect a clear pathway to ultimate publication. If that path is not obvious, we prefer to decline the paper rather than continue into extended rounds of major revision. Of course, exceptions exist, and it may be that the EIC or an AE really wants to work closely with an author on a paper of clear potential significance.

Fourth, the journal adopts a **constructive review** process. These days, many journals strive to be developmental in their review process and culture. Rather than being adversarial, they seek to help authors develop their work to the best of their ability. The reviewers look for the “golden nuggets” in a paper—even if the initial paper does not articulate them well—and strive to help develop them into a paper that makes a contribution. Even if declining the paper, the review team would provide actionable guidance and feedback to explain the basis of the decision, which would hopefully give authors ideas for how to take their work in a positive direction.

2.3 AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction (THCI)

2.3.1 Mission

THCI began in 2009. It is a high-quality peer-reviewed international scholarly journal on human-computer interaction (HCI). The AIS Special Interest Group on Human-Computer Interaction (SIGHCI) is the official sponsor for *THCI*. As an AIS journal, *THCI* supports the information systems community that emphasizes HCI applications in business, managerial, organizational, and cultural contexts. However, the journal is open to all related communities that share intellectual interests in HCI phenomena and issues. As for its editorial objective, *THCI* focuses on enhancing and communicating knowledge about the interplay among humans, information, technologies, and tasks to guide the development and use of human-centered information and communication technologies (ICT) and services for individuals, groups, organizations, and communities.

Topics of interest to *THCI* include but are not limited to:

- The behavioral, cognitive, motivational, and affective aspects of human and technology interaction
- User task analysis and modeling; fit between representations and task types
- Digital documents/genres; human information seeking and Web-navigation behaviors; human information interaction; information visualization
- Social media; social computing; virtual communities
- Behavioral information security and information assurance; privacy and trust in human technology interaction
- User interface design and evaluation for various applications in business, managerial, organizational, educational, social, cultural, non-work, and other domains
- Integrated and/or innovative approaches, guidelines, and standards or metrics for human-centered analysis; design, construction, evaluation, and use of interactive devices and information systems
- Information systems usability engineering; universal usability
- The impact of interfaces/information technology on people's attitudes, behaviors, performance, perceptions, and productivity
- Implications and consequences of technological change on individuals, groups, society, and socio-technical units
- Software learning and training issues such as perceptual, cognitive, and motivational aspects of learning
- Gender and information technology
- The elderly, the young, and special-needs populations for new applications, modalities, and multimedia interaction, and
- Issues in HCI education.

The journal publishes in English. The audience includes international scholars and practitioners who conduct research on issues related to the journal's objectives. The journal publishes issues quarterly (March, June, September, and December).

Like *J AIS* and *CAIS*, *THCI* publishes electronically; it does not publish a paper copy. The entire process from submission, review, revision, final proof, to publication occurs electronically. To expedite the review process for fast turnaround and to facilitate fast publication, authors must adhere to the submission and publication guidelines in terms of software and text formats. We also provide style sheets and reference style (such as in EndNote format) to ease authors' work in preparing manuscripts.

2.3.2 Editorial Philosophy

We strive to recognize promise in papers submitted to *THCI*, to promptly help authors (especially inexperienced authors) develop their papers, and to help publish these papers either in *THCI* or elsewhere. This philosophy involves employing a discerning but constructive and empathetic set of senior editors and a high-quality editorial board. Thus, editors and reviewers will apply extra care to

differentiating superficial from fundamental flaws. *THCI* reviewers focus on avoiding rejecting promising papers, avoiding delays in handling non-promising papers, and focusing on research and manuscript development. We focus on developing and publishing a wide variety of HCI-related topics and methodologies, especially the kind of work that may seem less perfect or complete but that can stimulate critical thinking and push the discipline further. We also focus on recognizing and rewarding well-constructed manuscripts and pushing manuscripts through the review process more quickly.

THCI's editorial philosophy to a great extent concurs with and contributes to the recent momentum that *J AIS*, *MISQ*, *ISR*, and several other major IS journals have set. Together with these journals, *THCI* strives to advance the reviews and publications of scholarly work in the IS field.

The journal's review process supports its editorial philosophy. We will make every effort to ensure that the review cycle is as short and fast as possible without compromising the quality of the manuscript development and the accepted papers.

THCI uses two types of peer reviews: the expedited review and the regular review. The EIC or guest SE who handles a manuscript determines what review type the paper will undergo based on its quality at the time of submission and its topic's timeliness. Thus, having the manuscript in good form and quality at submission time can help to expedite the review process. The review criteria and standards are the same for making final acceptance decisions for papers that undergo either the expedited or regular review.

A paper can be submitted for expedited review if it has been previously published in the proceedings of an AIS conference or if it has undergone extensive peer-review at a leading top journal and the authors propose a plan for addressing the previously identified issues. One EIC or guest SE and two experienced members from the boards (senior editor board or editorial board) usually conduct expedited reviews. The board members assess the manuscript and reach a decision. The involved board members do not know the identity of the authors and the authors do not know the identities of the board members, but the authors do know the identity of the handling EIC or guest SE.

The regular review process uses a two-tier review structure that involves a SE and reviewers (editorial board members or ad hoc reviewers). The authors know the identity of the handling SE, and the SE knows the identities of both the authors and the reviewers. The regular review process uses double-blind reviews: authors do not know the reviewers' identities and the reviewers do not know the authors' identities.

2.4 Pacific Asia Journal of the Association for Information Systems (PAJAIS)

2.4.1 Mission

Pacific Asia Journal of the Association for Information Systems (PAJAIS) is a quarterly AIS journal that publishes high-quality research IS papers. It focuses on enhancing the knowledge in information technology management with an emphasis on research and development in the Asia Pacific Region. The journal covers a broad-range of research issues and methods and welcomes submissions of various types, including original, unpublished **research papers**, **short research notes and commentaries**, **conceptual papers** (e.g., milestone position papers, reviews of key research areas, and major frameworks in information systems), **case studies** in the Asia Pacific region, and **reviews** of new books in information systems and related areas. The journal accepts **both behavioral and design science** papers.

Topics of interest to *PAJAIS* include but are not limited to:

- IS development in the Asia Pacific region
- Information system theory and research methods
- Information systems development
- Management of information systems
- Technical development in information systems
- E-business and other applications
- Group and organizational applications,
- New trends in information technologies and systems,
- Decision support and intelligent systems, and
- Other topics related to business applications of information technology.

2.4.2 Review and Publication Process

All submissions will be blindly reviewed by knowledgeable experts. *PAJAIS* has a publication policy focused on **fast turnaround time**. We intend to provide first-run comments to authors within 30 days. High-quality papers may be published within six months from their submission dates. The editor-in-chief screens all submissions and then assigns them to senior editors and professionals for blind review. We publish accepted papers **electronically and in print** to broaden the audience. We also allow open access to increase the impact of published papers but do not charge publication fees. Authors are encouraged to distribute their papers freely to other scholars. For more information, see: <http://pajais.ecrc.nsysu.edu.tw/>.

2.5 Revista Latinoamericana y del Caribe de la Asociación de Sistemas de Información (RELCASI)

2.5.1 Mission

The *Revista Latinoamericana y del Caribe de la Asociación de Sistemas de Información (RELCASI)* is an AIS journal that the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the AIS established in 2008. The journal adopts Spanish and Portuguese and, thus, focuses primarily on Spanish and Portuguese speaking researchers, students, and practitioners in the management information systems (MIS) area. *RELCASI* fosters rigorous research in Spanish and Portuguese without sacrificing clarity, style, simplicity, and a practical contribution that also makes it attractive to practitioners.

RELCASI recognizes that, by being written in a language other than English, it reduces the size of its potential audience and the amount of classical citations it might receive; however, for that same reason, it can capture a different but still sizable and very important audience who are more comfortable reading in Spanish or Portuguese. Furthermore, by being in Spanish and Portuguese, it is also an outlet for high-quality researchers who have limited skill in writing in English and, thus, fewer possibilities of publishing work in the English journals.

While the journal publishes and reviews papers in Spanish or Portuguese, it publishes their titles, abstracts, and keywords in both the original language and in English.

2.5.2 Publication and Review Process

RELCASI uses double-blind peer review. We publish both print and online versions: we provide the print version on demand but also sell it during AMCIS. One can access the online version via the AIS eLibrary (AISeL). The double-blind peer-review process involves an associate editor and a minimum of two academic peers.

The journal primarily publishes research papers developed with a robust theoretical framework and that include an appropriate literature review. The papers can be qualitative or quantitative, conceptual, research stream surveys, or surveys. Empirical research papers must clearly, comprehensively, and concisely describe the methodology, data collection, and analytical techniques used. We will consider case studies, pedagogical papers, book reviews, debates, and opinion papers, but such papers do not constitute a majority of the journal. We do not encourage papers with high technical and low managerial content, but we may accept them if highly relevant or innovative.

2.6 Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS)

2.6.1 Mission

SJIS has operated since 1989; thus, it has published IS research for over 25 years. The journal focuses on publishing critical yet constructive studies of IT development and use. We welcome theoretical and methodological pluralism.

We acknowledge and encourage the highly interdisciplinary nature of such studies. Topics include but are not restricted to: organizational politics of IT, participatory design, micro-studies of actual use, evolution and use of digital infrastructures, open source development, transformations of leisure and work following (e.g., mobile technologies), strategic and structural transformations of business organizations and public sector, software development methods and strategies, and the life on the Internet.

2.6.2 Editorial Philosophy

The journal draws on the rich and well-established “Scandinavian” research tradition (Iivari & Lyytinen, 1999) that emphasizes engagement with the field, participation from users, and multi-vocality of interests. Because geographical boundaries do not confine this kind of scholarly work, one should interpret the term “Scandinavian” in the title metaphorically rather than literally as an ambition to foster this tradition. Therefore, the journal welcomes submissions from all over the world that address these topics and engage in a critical discourse with studies informed by Scandinavian tradition.

2.7 AIS Transactions on Replication Research (TRR)

2.7.1 Mission

Alan Dennis and Joe Valacich established *TRR* in 2014 as co-EICs. Its mission is to publish replications of information systems studies that have been published in other journals or conference proceedings to strengthen the IS field. It considers all topics in IS.

The physical sciences do not consider new knowledge valid until different researchers at different labs have replicated it and scientific consensus emerges. Researchers see this independent validation as crucial to advancing science, yet the social sciences traditionally have not taken this viewpoint. Journals in the social sciences (and information systems in particular) are not interested in publishing replications of prior studies. Unfortunately, if any research could truly benefit from extra validation, it is the social sciences where the object of study, humans, have free will and, thus, have the option to behave as they see fit unlike the natural sciences where, for example, if a chemical reaction occurs in one lab, it is likely to recur under the same conditions in another lab.

One can trace much of the current interest in replication back to a 2012 open letter by Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman of Princeton University, which pointed out that, when psychology researchers attempted to replicate research on the topic of priming, they sometimes found different results, and journals routinely rejected their papers that demonstrated these different results, which created a backlash of mistrust and skepticism about all priming research, not just the non-replicable studies (Yong, 2012a).

Unfortunately, this issue concerns more than just priming research. Labs that have attempted to replicate classic psychology studies have found different results from the original studies. Some have estimated that one cannot replicate 30 percent or more of published social science research (The Economist, 2013). These conclusions are simply due to commonly used statistical procedures and do not consider errors, academic misconduct, publication bias (the bias against publishing non-significant results), or positivity bias (where one assesses a manuscript's quality by the number of hypotheses supported such that journals do not publish manuscripts with few supported hypotheses) (Yong, 2012b).

2.7.2 Publication and Review Process

TRR has two simple review criteria: 1) does the submission replicate an IS study and 2) are the methods appropriate. We do not assess “contribution” because all replications are a contribution whether they support, refute, or show no effects of a relationship or even if the methods used in the original study fail to work in the replication.

If a submission replicates the original paper's results, then the replication provides external third party validation of the results and a generalization of the original contribution to a new time period as possibly a new context. If the submission fails to replicate the original results, the original results are not necessarily “wrong”; rather, they simply may not generalize to the new context, which should trigger additional replications and new follow-on research in other journals that focus on understanding in what contexts the original theory applies and why one can generalize the original findings only to those contexts.

We view replication as falling into one of three fundamental categories:

1. **Exact replications:** these papers exactly copy an original paper in terms of method and context. They use identical measures, treatments, statistical analyses, and so on as the original study. They also adopt the same context such that, if the original study used U.S. undergraduate business students, Mechanical Turk, employees of a Finnish telecom, and so on, then so would the replication.

2. **Methodological replications:** these papers use the same methods as the original study (i.e., measures, treatments, statistics, etc.) but in a different context. For example, if the original study used U.S. undergraduate business students, the replication might use U.S. graduate students, undergraduates from Hong Kong, German professionals, and so on.
3. **Theoretical replications:** these papers test exactly the same research questions or hypotheses but use different measures, treatments, and/or analyses. For example, replications might alter the wording of items used to measure key constructs or use different software to implement a treatment in an experiment.

All types of replications are valuable in advancing science. Theoretical replications are the strongest form of replication because they ensure that there is nothing idiosyncratic about the wording of items, the execution of treatments, or the culture of the original context that would limit the research conclusions. Thus, replication is *not* always a carbon copy of the original study. Rather, it is a study that seeks to test the same theory or research question in the original study.

2.8 Comparison of the Review Processes for the AIS Journals

For purposes of orientation and differentiation, Table 1 summarizes the AIS journals in terms of typical reviewing statistics, timeframes, and main editorial decision making elements.

Table 1. Reviewing Statistics of the AIS Journals Current as of June 2017

AIS journal	Typical acceptance rate	Average decision turnaround time	Average number of rounds to final decision	Main editorial decision making structure
<i>JAIS</i>	Around 8%	104 days	2.4	Two-tier structure; typically, the SE makes decisions in consultation with reviewers.
<i>CAIS</i>	35% ¹	40 days	2.0	EIC makes decision in consultation with AEs.
<i>THCI</i>	35%	75 days	1.6	SE makes decision in consultation with reviewers; ideally, one reviewer comes from the editorial review board.
<i>PAJAIS</i>	50%	100 days	1.5	EIC makes decision in consultation with SE and AEs.
<i>RELCASI</i>	50%	60 days	1.5	EIC makes decision in consultation with AEs.
<i>SJIS</i>	25%	100 days	n/a	SE makes decision.
<i>TRR</i>	90%	60 days	2.3	SE makes decision. One reviewer is usually an author of the original study.

¹ This figure covers all submission types including panel reports, commentaries, and debates, which are usually accepted. The acceptance rate for more traditional research papers is around 20 percent.

3 Values Shared by all AIS Journals

3.1 Commitment to Developmental Reviewing

The AIS family of journals is united in its desire to provide developmental reviews to authors who submit to them. The origin of this commitment comes from Carol Saunders, a long-time advocate of developmental reviews. In her first editorial as editor-in-chief of *MIS Quarterly* in March 2005—titled “Looking for Diamond Cutters” (Saunders, 2005)—she argued that the IS community needed a new mindset for reviewing: one that focuses on what can be done to polish a paper versus the prevailing critical mindset that had turned reviewing into a joyous hunt for fatal flaws. She wanted reviewers to recognize that no paper is perfect and that, sometimes, authors can satisfactorily address what seems like a fatal flaw by applying reviewers’ expertise. Of note, she suggested that reviewers “counter every problem with a suggestion”. The suggestions could address ways of writing the paper, filling in gaps in the literature to better position the paper, more deeply conceptualizing the underlying model, reanalyzing the data using a more appropriate methodology, or moving the author’s research stream forward in some other way. She did not advocate that one accept every paper for publication. Rather, she proposed that, if

reviewers focused on both a paper's positive and negative aspects, it might be possible to find a contribution that could be published in some appropriate forum and to improve the author's future research efforts.

The verdict as to whether reviewing has become more developmental in the IS discipline in the decade since that editorial appeared is still out. It appears that, sometimes, reviewers tend to be just as critical and unrelenting in their demands but that they now end their reviews with a statement that they hope the authors will find their review to be helpful. That said, we think prospective authors will find the commitment to developmental reviewing to be genuine in the AIS family of journals. One can find out as much by submitting a paper to one of our journals. However, when doing so, one should remember that reviewer time is precious. Thus, prior to submission, we ask prospective authors to vet their ideas by presenting their papers at conferences and asking their colleagues to critique them. Though it is very difficult to do, we ask prospective authors to step back from their papers and to critically assess existing problems. Once one recognizes the problems, one can take steps to correct them rather than vainly hoping that they will go unrecognized (because they will not). Our review teams are committed to helping all prospective authors once they have submitted a paper to one of our journals.

3.2 Supporting Replication Research

The AIS Journal family encourages replication research in order to move the science of information systems forward. We believe that we are among one of the first scientific associations to sponsor a journal devoted to publishing replication research (i.e., *AIS Transactions on Replication Research*). In addition, each AIS journal will tag papers that other researchers have replicated and whose authors will make their data sets available for replication.

When *TRR* publishes a replication paper, we will put a badge that points to the *TRR* publication in the original paper (if it is in a journal in the AIS library such as *J AIS*, *MISQ*, etc.), so that researchers who read the original paper can quickly find the replication. For example, *TRR* published a paper by Young, Carpenter, and McLeod (2016), which replicates Liang and Xue (2010). The original *J AIS* paper now has a replication badge that links to the *TRR* paper.

3.3 Supporting Open Science through Open Materials and Open Data

In 2016, *TRR* was the first AIS journal to join the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/>). As such, on behalf of the AIS family of journals, *TRR* will publish materials (e.g., surveys, tasks, scripts, interview protocols, etc.) and data from papers published in any IS journal as a special type of paper in *TRR*. These materials and data will allow researchers to replicate studies and will help move the field forward by giving us greater confidence in published papers. When we publish an open materials/data paper, we will put a badge in the original paper that points to the *TRR* publication (if it is in a journal of the AIS family such as *J AIS*, *CAIS*, etc. or if it is included in the AIS eLibrary such as *MISQ* or *BISE*) so that researchers who read papers in those journals can quickly find the open materials and data.

For example, Moqbel and Bartelt (2015) wrote a replication paper and decided to also publish an open data paper that shared their data and an open materials paper that shared their materials. Thus, the original paper (Moqbel & Bartelt, 2015) has two badges: the open data badge that points to the open data paper (Bartelt & Moqbel, 2016) and the open materials badge that points to the open materials paper (Bartelt & Moqbel, 2016).

3.4 Encouraging Paper Development through Conference Paper Submissions

Importantly, AIS serves society by advancing knowledge. AIS believes that it can best serve this mission not by constraining the dissemination of research contributions. Therefore, AIS encourages authors of papers published at AIS conferences to submit them for publication in AIS journals, though they should remember that most journals expect a more substantial contribution than most conferences. Specifically, AIS has the policy that:

1. One may submit a paper published at an AIS conference to a journal even without change, and
2. An AIS journal cannot reject a paper submitted to an AIS journal only because a conference published an earlier version of it.

The AIS Conference and Journal Publication Policy (http://aisnet.org/resource/resmgr/Docs/Policy_on_Conference_and_Jou.pdf) applies to AIS conferences, so no copyright issues prevent any journal (AIS or

not) from publishing an AIS conference paper. As such, no restrictions prevent authors from submitting their papers from any conference (AIS or not) to an AIS journal.

4 Shared Author Expectations

4.1 Adhering to the AIS Code of Research Conduct

The AIS Code of Research Conduct (<http://aisnet.org/page/AdmBullCResearchCond>) expresses standards expected of persons qualified to be AIS members in relation to research and publication. The code primarily focuses on scholarly works, but much of it also applies to publications for teaching purposes (such as course syllabi and reading materials) and for consultancy purposes.

All AIS journals fully endorse the AIS Code of Research Conduct and require prospective authors to adhere to this code when submitting manuscripts for consideration.

4.2 Maintaining Research Provenance

The AIS journals expect authors to maintain the ability to authenticate research-relevant materials such as data, instruments, or procedures. Provenance entails in particular the chronology of the ownership, custody, location, archival, access, or legal and ethical responsibilities of research-relevant materials.

4.3 Disclosing Submission Histories

Authors must always disclose whether conferences have published their submissions when they submit their submissions to AIS journals. The paper submitted to a journal does not need to differ from the original conference paper (it could be identical) because the paper should be assessed on its scientific merit, not on some arbitrary expectation of “being different”.

The AIS journals also expect authors to disclose any prior journal submission history when submitting a manuscript for consideration (e.g., the cover letter that accompanies the manuscript).

Authors must conform to the copyright policy of the journal, which normally involves both transferring copyright to the journal and reassigning rights to authors.

Authors must also acknowledge the provenance of the original conference paper in a final journal paper (e.g., in a footnote on the title page) regardless of the extent of the eventual changes.

5 Where You Should Submit Your Paper

To help AIS members select a suitable AIS journal outlet for their research, Table 2 (next page) provides a decision guide. While not exhaustive, the table should help orient prospective authors to the types of papers that AIS journals typically accept.

6 Outlook: Our Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Much like science itself, the wheels in academic publishing never stand still. The AIS constantly reviews, updates, revises, and innovates how it goes about its key publishing services. Since April, 2017, a dedicated AIS task force has begun working on implementing new and extended services related to academic publishing. These new features will assist authors in submitting papers, searching papers, understanding the reviewing and publishing processes of AIS journals, and also using contemporary Web and social media technologies for reaching a wider audience with their papers for improved impact. The association will make several of these improvements available throughout 2017.

Table 2. Decision Guide for Authors

Papers that describe original and novel research of general interest to the community and that adopt the <i>highest</i> standards.	Consider <i>JAIS</i>
Papers that promote novel, different research concepts or ideas that are perhaps not ideally suited to a top-level journal.	Consider <i>CAIS</i>
Papers that discuss innovative ideas that relate to IS education or pedagogy.	Consider <i>CAIS</i>
Papers that provide a tutorial on theories, domains, or methodologies.	Consider <i>CAIS</i>
Papers that focus on usability of systems, impacts of systems on people, the interaction experience, user interface design, methods for human-centered analysis, or how to develop those systems to promote a better user experience	Consider <i>THCI</i>
Papers that provide advice and retrospective summaries of research streams on a diverse set of methods for performing research in human factors in design.	Consider <i>THCI</i>
Papers that replicate an IS study.	Consider <i>TRR</i>
Papers that emphasize the “Scandinavian” research tradition of engagement with the field, participation from users, and multi-vocality of interests.	Consider <i>SJIS</i>
Papers that emphasize research and development in the Asia Pacific region.	Consider <i>PAJAIS</i>
Authors who want to better reach the Spanish or Portuguese speaking population or having some difficulties writing papers in English.	Consider <i>RELCASI</i>

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