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IS RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES ARTICLE

Global Journal Prestige and Supporting Disciplines: A Scientometric Study of Information Systems Journals*

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Abstract

Many argue that the Information Systems (IS) field is at a critical juncture in its evolving identity. In debating whether the IS field is in crisis, we agree with Hirschheim and Klein (2003) that "reflective analysis" will contribute to the field's continued prosperity. Indeed, reflective analysis is needed to evaluate the journals of the field as well as IS journal rankings, which evaluate the effectiveness and productivity of researchers and the effectiveness and productivity of journals in communicating research results. After all, where and how we publish are fundamental aspects of the identity of the IS field—reflecting our value systems, paradigms, cultural practices, reward systems, political hierarchy, and aspirations.

This article reviews the results of the largest global, scientometric survey to date of IS journal rankings that targeted 8741 faculty from 414 IS departments world-wide, and resulted in 2559 responses, or a 32% response rate. Rather than using predetermined journal lists, the study required respondents to freely recall their top-four research journals.

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* Detmar Straub was the accepting senior editor for this paper.

This research improves on the usual scientometric journal ranking studies by providing a foundation for further reflection and self-analysis. For instance, it first examines the global structure of the IS field and investigates perceptions among global IS academics concerning current research outlets. Specific results then illustrate the values and cultural norms in the global IS community that affect the evaluation of research and publication outlets. Finally, in addition to rankings of scholarly journals by the entire world-wide sample of IS academics, rankings are provided for top IS practitioner journals, most frequently read IS journals, top journals for the major IS supporting disciplines, and top journals by world region.

Keywords: Information Systems, Journal Rankings, Journal Quality, Research Journals, Practitioner Journals, Reference Disciplines, Supporting Disciplines, Tenure, Academic Promotion, Management Information Systems, Computer Information Systems

Introduction

Many argue that the Information Systems (IS) field[1] is in crisis and at a critical juncture in its evolving identity (Hirschheim and Klein, 2003; Markus, 1999). In debating whether the IS field is in crisis, we agree with Hirschheim and Klein (2003) that "reflective analysis" (p. 239) is needed because it contributes to the field's continued prosperity. Indeed, more reflective analysis is needed to evaluate and discuss the journals in which we publish. These journals embody the identity of the IS field as they reflect our value systems, paradigms, cultural practices, reward systems, political hierarchy, and aspirations. Relative to this point are IS journal rankings, measured by scientometrics, which evaluate the effectiveness and productivity of researchers in disseminating research or the effectiveness and productivity of journals in communicating research results (Chua et al., 2003).

Given the many changes and challenges that are occurring in the IS community, there is no better time to enhance the science with which we study the IS field. Scientometrics can be defined as the quantitative study of research (Davis, 2001), including the question of where and how we publish. Simply put, scientometrics is the scientific study of the process of science. For example, citation analysis, meta-analysis, and opinion surveys are methodological approaches typically employed in scientometrics.[2]

Thus, this large, global study of faculty perceptions of IS journal rankings study provides a scientometric perspective on the field of IS. This study uses innovative approaches to investigate journal rankings by identifying academics who declare themselves to be active in the IS community and asking them to use free-recall (as opposed to pre-determined journal lists) to

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[1] For purposes of this article, and the underlying survey, IS has been universally defined as the field that encompasses the fields of Information Systems, Management Information Systems, Computer Information Systems, and Business Information Systems.

[2] It is important to not use confuse the term survey with meta-analysis, as clarified by Hunter et al. (1982): A "survey" is data gathered from primary sources such as knowledge workers or professors. Surveys can include opinions, reactions to hypothetical scenarios (also known as "scenario capturing"), or simply data gathering on factual matters like the size of a firm. In contrast, the sample for a meta-analysis is the article itself, not people. Thus, a study that analyzes the content of abstracts, or the affiliations of authors, or the production of authors themselves is a meta-analysis.

rank their top four academic journals. Separate questions ask participants to name the journals they most frequently read, the top practitioner journals, and the top journals for their reference (or supporting) disciplines.

This study moves beyond straight-forward journal rankings and provides a foundation for further reflection and self-analysis by examining the global structure of the IS field and investigating perceptions among global IS academics concerning current research outlets. As globalization within the IS field increases, research evaluations and service to IS academics demand increased awareness of the distinct values of regional IS sub-communities. Differing opinions among IS academics according to their geographic regions illustrate the global diversity of the IS community and can be used to investigate how cultural factors affect perceptions regarding the quality of outlets for our research.

By understanding these perceptions, members of the global IS community can understand and challenge the values and assumptions involved with decisions related to IS journals. These decisions are not trivial. Perceptions and realities regarding judgments of journal quality largely affect how and where we communicate our life's work; who is promoted and who is not promoted; who receives tenure and who does not receive tenure; who has influence through their work, and who does not; who is cited, and has their work become the foundation for future research; who is uncited; and who will or will not rise as editorial gatekeepers of our valued paradigms and oversee the emergence of new paradigms.

The remainder of this study first reviews prior approaches to journal ranking studies. The unique contributions of this study are highlighted and then detailed in the methods section. We then present the results, which are followed by the limitations and implications of the findings.

Prior Work and Methods

Journal rankings research is typically conducted through citation analyses and survey-based rankings. Some academics feel that citation analysis, which is based on empirical data extracted from published journals, is inherently more objective and precise than studies based on expert opinion. Researchers traditionally use citation analyses to show the productivity of individual researchers or institutions, based on the number of times a given work is cited.

Alternatively, some studies have used variations of citation analysis to help define the top journals in a given field. For example, a decade ago Cooper et al. (1993) used citation analysis to measure journal influence in IS. Several studies have ranked journals according to citations for the fields of decision support systems (DSS) and business computing research (Holsapple et al., 1994; Holsapple et al., 1993; Holsapple et al., 1995). Using citation and content analysis, Van Over et al. (1986) ranked IS journals via a journal basket[3] employed in an opinion survey by Vogel and Wetherbe (1984). Other examples of journal rankings based on citation and content analyses include rankings for AI research (Cheng et al., 1996) and for technology innovation management research (Cheng et al., 1999).

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[3] Chua et al. (2003) use the term "basket" to refer to the set of journals used to stimulate responses in surveys of journal quality or in citation analyses.

Despite their empirical nature, citation-based journal rankings are not entirely objective. Lead investigators must still define what is and what is not IS research. Then, they must decide which articles within the selected journals meet the IS research inclusion criteria. It is also problematic that most citation analyses target a small number of journals, causing the analyses to be based on small, subjective samplings of external experts. Hence, generalizability of results is limited to those selected journals that compose a journal basket (Chua et al., 2003).

Citation-based journal rankings often have additional limitations. For example, self-citation policies vary greatly by journal. Citations can also be biased toward journals that have been longest in existence.[4] Additionally, the number of pages, the average number of articles, and the publication frequency vary greatly by journal, and these variations can create biases toward journals that are published more often and/or produce more articles. For example, an increased number of published works can inflate the number of works that are available for citation. Finally, one or two hallmark articles can be cited disproportionately and thus distort such rankings.

Besides citation analysis, opinion surveys are another common approach for determining journal quality. Although this approach also has subjective qualities, it has strong utility because the collective opinions of IS academics on journal quality, regardless of their origin, have a significant impact on the field. In other words, IS experts' beliefs about the quality of specific journals (whether or not these beliefs are subjectively or objectively valid) shape the IS field, since these beliefs are direct inputs that affect academic decisions. For example, IS academics routinely evaluate the quality of their colleagues' publications based on the perceived quality of the journals in which they appear. Although such evaluations typically are not the only criteria used to evaluate the work of colleagues, perceived journal quality is manifested directly in many university decisions on hiring, promotion, reward, tenure, and retention; externally these evaluations are involved in deciding whom to involve in editorial boards, conference committees, and service organizations.

Given the influence experts' perceptions of journal quality have on the field of IS, researchers have conducted several substantial IS journal ranking studies. Hamilton and Ives (1980) were arguably the first to make a major contribution to IS journal rankings research, by combining a journal rankings survey with citation analysis. Their survey asked MIS experts to rate how each listed journal contributed to the MIS field and the extent to which they were read.

Vogel and Wetherbe (1984) built on the foundation set by Hamilton and Ives (1980) by asking respondents for preferred publication outlets. Their findings ranked journals in descending order and weighted them according to the ranking order. They also provided empirical data showing journals in which the top IS programs were publishing.

Several studies that followed Vogel and Wetherbe (1984) built larger predetermined baskets of journals and added new measures for additional insights about how the field of IS was developing. Using a predetermined basket of journals, Doke and Luke (1987) introduced

[4] Cooper et al. (1993) overcame the self-citation problem by completely removing all self-citations from their count. Holsapple et al. (1994) addressed the years of existence issue by normalizing the total references according to years in existence.

measures for computing a popularity/familiarity index and an importance/prestige index. Koong and Weistroffer (1989) based their work on the largest pre-determined basket of journals to date and asked respondents to list the three most widely-used journals for acquiring MIS information, and the three most widely used for publishing. Gillenson and Stutz (1991) provided an even larger journal basket and focused mainly on eliciting professors' perceptions about the academic quality of MIS journals. Whitman et al. (1999) asked respondents to rate journals as top, high, medium, low, and nil; these ratings were then transposed to numerical values. Walczak (1999) conducted the first study to include IS supporting disciplines. Building on earlier studies (Hardgrave and Walstrom, 1997; Walstrom et al., 1995), Walstrom and Hardgrave (2001) asked each of their respondents to numerically rate selected journals on a scale of one to four on their appropriateness to MIS.

One recognized limitation of the aforementioned studies is that they tend to have a strong focus on North American samples, and thereby North American perspectives. In response to this limitation, Avgerou et al. (1999) focused only on European IS journal ranking perceptions. Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001) responded to this limitation with the most extensive, international study to date, including the largest number of respondents. It expanded on previous measures by asking for the top 10 journals in a first tier category and the top 10 journals in a second tier category, as well as the most widely-read journals.

Table 1 summarizes the major IS-related journal rankings studies that have been published to date, including the present study. The table excludes journal ranking studies that summarize other studies or provide non-empirically based rankings, such as (Davis, 1980; Nord and Nord, 1995; Nord and Nord, 1990; Robey et al., 2000).

Although previous survey rankings have made significant contributions to the IS field, these studies also have notable limitations and opportunities for improvement. First, survey rankings often use pre-selected, alphabetized baskets of IS journals. Such methodological artifacts can introduce potential ordering, memory, familiarity, fatigue, anchoring, and selection biases. For example, some journals may receive higher rankings based on the familiarity of their name or appearance in an earlier journal basket. Additionally, the use of large baskets can cause fatigue and other unintended results, especially when respondents choose to rank journals with which they are only vaguely familiar. Large baskets can also cause many low-quality journals to be ranked that would not otherwise be considered. Even more troubling, predetermined baskets can often exclude journals particular researchers find salient. On the other hand, large baskets can provide value in giving a representative distribution of high-quality, medium-quality, and low-quality journals—as seen with the study by Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001).

Furthermore, by using predetermined baskets, an "anchoring effect" can occur in which respondents are likely to rate only those journals in the basket, as opposed to suggesting new ones (Chua et al., 2003). Predetermined baskets can also create self-fulfilling prophecies in that researchers of IS rankings tend to build on baskets used by previous ranking researchers—causing specialty areas to be ignored over time (Chua et al., 2003).

Table 1. All Major IS Journal Ranking Survey Studies				
Who / when	**Key aspects of the study**	**Journal selection**	**Respondent selection**	**Participation**
Hamilton and Ives (1980)	Combined journal rankings survey with citation analysis of productivity. Journal survey asked participants to rate how each journal contributes to the MIS field and the extent to which they are read.	Used a predetermined basket of 37 journals	Targeted 291 MIS experts, as determined by the authors	110 responses (37.8% response rate)
Vogel and Wetherbe (1984)	Asked respondents for the academic journals they prefer to publish in. Ranked journals in descending order and weighted according to the ranking order. Provided empirical data to show what journals the top IS programs were publishing in.	Took the top-journals from (Hamilton and Ives, 1980) and five others they felt were important to add.	Targeted 291 MIS experts, as determined by the authors	110 responses (37.8% response rate)
Doke and Luke (1987)	Asked for top-10 IS journals; computed a popularity / familiarity index and an importance / prestige index.	Used a predetermined basket of 29 journals	Sent to 243 Deans of AACSB schools who gave to IS faculty. 93 of the schools had IS groups.	29 schools responded (31% corrected rate)
Koong and Weistroffer (1989)	Asked respondents to list the three most used journals for acquiring MIS information and the three most used for publishing.	Used a predetermined basket of 70 journals, allowed write-in's	Used MISRC directory of MIS faculty (using a sequential random sample of 500)	144 responses (28.7% response rate)
Gillenson and Stutz (1991)	Assessed attitudes of professors on the academic quality of MIS journals.	Used a predetermined basket of 80 journals	Used department chair or senior person from 269 AACSB accredited business schools	135 responses (50.2% response rate)
Whitman et al.(1999)	Asked respondents to rate journals as top, high, medium, low, and nil (assigned numerical value); also asked for tenure and promotion related data	Used a predetermined basket of 80 journals	Sent survey to 432 department heads in US/Canada, using 1995 directory of MIS faculty	184 responses (43% response rate)
Avgerou et al.(1999)	Study of IS field in Europe only, including IS journal rankings.	Used a predetermined basket of 41 journals	Sent survey to 902 European academics only	373 responses (41% response rate)

Who / when	Key aspects of the study	Journal selection	Respondent selection	Participation
Walczak (1999)	Asked researchers to rate the top six journals in a pre-determined basket of sixteen research disciplines.	Used a predetermined basket of 53 journals; used a predetermined basket of 16 research disciplines	2074 faculty, based on 1997 version of MISRC faculty directory and additions based on position announcements at AMCSI, DSI, and ICIS. 366 emails were invalid resulting in target list of 1708 faculty.	306 usable responses (18% response rate[5])
Walstrom and Hardgrave (2001)	Extended their earlier studies (Hardgrave and Walstrom, 1997; Walstrom et al., 1995). Asked each respondent to numerically rate each journal on its appropriateness to MIS on a scale of one to four.	Latest study had predetermined basket of 51 journals and 13 conferences	Targeted 2147 US/Canadian respondents; used ISWorld listserv for sampling	350 responses (16.3% response rate)
Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001)	Asked for top-10 journals in 1st tier and top-10 journal in 2nd tier, and most-read journals. First global survey; also included students.	Used a predetermined basket of 87 journals	Emailed 3855 academics from ISWorld faculty directory; 1094 emails were invalid	979 responses; (35.5% corrected response rate)
Bharati and Tarasewich (2002)	Focused solely on global IS researchers interested in e-commerce journals. Asked each respondent to rate the appropriateness of specific journals for publishing IS research.	Used a predetermined basket of 62 IS journals	Used ISWorld faculty directory for sampling; emailed 3189 faculty	249 responses (8% response rate)[6]
Peffers and Ya (2003)	Focused on separating general journal rankings from IS journal rankings. Categorized journals as IS research, allied discipline research, or professional journal. Identified 326 journals in which IS researchers publish.	Used a predetermined basket of 211 journals and allowed respondents to add journals	Convenience sampling: 261 members of IFIP WG 8.2 listserv, email to 3069 members of ISWORLD listserv, and email editors of 103 IS journals. All contacts were asked to pass on the survey to other colleagues.	1129 usable responses (at most, response rate was 32.9%, but was likely less because more than 3433 were actually contacted)
This study	Produced the largest global IS journal rankings study; primary focus on top-tier journals; adds top journals for reference disciplines, top read journals, and top practitioner journals.	Did not use predetermined baskets; uses free recall of top journals	414 global IS departments; emailed 8741 faculty; 738 emails were invalid	2559 responses (32% response rate, factoring out invalid emails); 1752 fully active in IS

[5] The response rate of the Walczak (1999) study is substantially lower than comparable surveys.
[6] The response rate in the Bharati and Tarasewich (2002) study appears reasonable, considering they asked for responses only from IS researchers who focus on e-commerce research.

Similarly, previous rankings studies have arguably given too much weight to mainstream IS research areas through the use of predetermined journal baskets—a choice that disenfranchises legitimate and high quality IS research in specialty contributing disciplines (Chua et al., 2003; Walczak, 1999). This is particularly problematic because the IS field is highly fragmented, and embraces many reference disciplines and subdisciplines (Banville and Landry, 1989). By leaning toward "mainstream" journals, subdisciplines are inappropriately devalued, and their adherents are marginalized from the field of IS.

One of many examples of marginalized IS subfields is that of "systems and software engineering (SSE)," which can be argued to be either a large subfield of IS or at least a large reference discipline. Glass and Chen (2002) performed a five-year study of the top scholars and institutions in SSE based on citations in the top software engineering journals. Interestingly, they refused to include *MISQ* on the grounds that: "This is a leading journal of the IS field, but it was not thought sufficiently relevant to SSE" (Glass and Chen, 2002), p. 83. For that matter, they also excluded *ISR, JMIS, I&M, EJIS, JAIS*, and so forth. In other words, they did not consider the top mainstream IS journals to be relevant to this substantial sub-group in the IS field. This may be one of many examples of continued fragmentation of the field, as suggested by Hirschheim and Klein (2003).

Given the limitations of previous journal ranking studies, several research opportunities exist. One opportunity is to provide journal rankings based on reference disciplines (that is, supporting or contributing disciplines) — to determine the best reference-discipline journals. This would be conducted from an IS perspective and based on respondents' self-reported reference disciplines. Self-reported reference disciplines may be as useful as self-reported journal baskets. For example, in a previous study (Walczak, 1999), participants were given for consideration a pre-determined set of 16 reference disciplines, a methodological artifact that can bias results in a similar manner to the use of pre-determined journal baskets. Furthermore, the published results (Walczak, 1999) list only the top-selected journal for a particular supporting discipline—and no other journals were listed for each discipline. A larger basket of in-depth reference discipline journals would be useful because the IS field tends to be highly diverse, and each researcher's viewpoint is greatly skewed by the disciplines they use in contributing to the IS field (Benbasat and Weber, 1996)—especially when we consider the diversity of the international IS research community.

Inclusion of supporting discipline journal rankings would also be useful because many of the journals perceived to be of high quality by IS researchers are not necessarily IS-centric journals, which is an irony that creates a disconnect when using journal rankings, as recently shown by Chua et al. (2003). This inclusion would also be useful because the top reference-discipline journals in which IS researchers publish are not necessarily the top journals in the discipline. For example, computer scientists universally hold the *Journal of the ACM (JACM)* in high esteem; yet, few IS researchers who publish from a computer-science perspective actually publish in *JACM* or consider it their top target journal (Chua et al., 2003).

Finally, rankings studies would also benefit from gathering more global data so that differences in world regions can be examined. Prior to the present work, only one study has taken an international perspective (Mylonopolous and Theoharakis, 2001). This lack of international representation introduces biases that negatively affect the global IS community. For example, recent citation research has shown that four leading European IS journals tend to be grossly under-rated on traditional journal ranking studies, despite the fact they are of similar quality and contribution to the field (Katerattanakul and Han, 2003).

Given these opportunities and challenges, this study provides another perspective on determining IS journal quality by extending previous ranking studies in several important ways: (1) sampling the largest group of global respondents ever targeted for such a study (8700+ members of 414 IS-related departments throughout the world); (2) asking respondents to rank only their top journal choices, so that the rankings reflect only the best journals and not every tier of journals; (3) removing respondents who are members of IS departments but do not consider themselves to be active members of the IS academic community; (4) requiring respondents to use free recall to list their top four IS research journals (as opposed to pre-determined journal baskets); (5) weighting the rankings so that top choices receive more weight in the rankings; (6) offering journal rankings for practitioner journals; (7) rating the top-read practitioner and academic journals; and (8) producing journal rankings for the top reference (or supporting) disciplines for IS researchers.

To explain the conduct of the study and its results, the remainder of this paper proceeds as follows: First, we give an overview of the specific sampling procedures and methodology of our survey. Second, we analyze and present the results of the survey in tabular form. Third, we discuss the implications of the survey results, along with the limitations. Finally, we outline the potential for future research.

Method

This section discusses the method that we used to conduct our international survey of IS journal rankings including sampling, instrumentation, and rankings techniques.

Sample

The target population for this study was all active IS academics throughout the world. Finding the appropriate representation of this population proved to be a difficult task, as it has been in previous studies. Most journal rankings research has relied solely on published IS faculty directories, lists that can suffer from a lack of current data, incomplete data, and poor international representation. Although Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001) employed an effective approach by sampling from both the IS World listserv and the IS faculty directory on www.isworld.org, this approach still raises several issues: (1) the IS World listserv contains many students, who can be difficult to filter out; (2) hundreds of the listings on the IS Faculty Directory are neither current nor accurate, likely because these data are created and updated voluntarily by each participating academician; (3) because the names and institutions of those subscribing to the IS World listserv are no longer made publicly available, it is difficult to estimate a correct sample size, since significant overlap exists between the IS World listserv and the IS faculty directory.

Given these sampling challenges, we built our target list of IS academics by visiting the websites of all 414 global departments listed on the Association for Information Systems (AIS) international directory and extracting the contact information for all the IS-related faculty members. Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the field, we surmised that this approach would not only find most of the active IS academics in the world, but also would capture many of their colleagues who are in IS departments but who do not consider themselves a part of the IS field. In this way, we chose to over-sample the population and then let the academics themselves identify their level of involvement in IS. Thus, academics who were not actively involved in IS were the least likely to respond. When they did respond, they were relatively easy to filter out, given that we asked about their level of activity in IS and other important demographic data. This pinpointing of active IS academicians proved to be a useful approach because it is frequently problematic to determine from online vitas whether or not a person is an active IS academic. For example, some academics publish occasionally in IS journals, but do not consider IS to be their primary discipline. Many IS academics, on the other hand, publish in non-mainstream IS journals, and so their level of IS involvement can be difficult to determine solely from judging their vitas.

Our unique sampling approach appeared to be highly successful in that we were able to create a large target sample of 8741 individuals and to achieve a respectable response rate. We solicited these individuals by email to participate in our web-based survey. Of these, 738 email addresses were invalid (8.4%), leaving 8003 valid email recipients. This suggests, in part, that the department listings we used were more current than the IS World faculty directory.[7] From the valid list of 8003 participants we received 2559 responses (32% response rate).

By achieving a reasonable response rate from a large, global sample of IS academics (and those partially affiliated with IS), this study provides externally valid insights into the composition of world-wide IS departments. The majority of the 2559 respondents were male and Caucasian. The gender distribution was 79.3% male and 20.7% female, whereas approximately 70% of the respondents were Caucasian (see Figure 1). Of these respondents, only a slight majority consider themselves to be primarily aligned with and active in the field of IS—a significant minority of respondents consider themselves to be members of CS and business communities even though they worked for IS departments and had some affiliation with IS. Figure 2 shows the distribution of primary disciplines in global IS departments.

To provide results that are most relevant and credible to the IS community, we included in the results only respondents who have PhDs and consider themselves primarily aligned with and active in IS. The following respondents were excluded from the journal rankings: students, inactive IS researchers, those who consider themselves only partially affiliated with IS, and those not holding PhDs. Thus, the number of responses used for journal rankings decreased from 2559 to 1572. Figure 3 shows the regional distribution of these 1572 respondents.

[7] The Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001) study used this directory and had 1094 invalid emails out of 3855 initial emails—a much higher invalid email rate (dross rate) than our study.

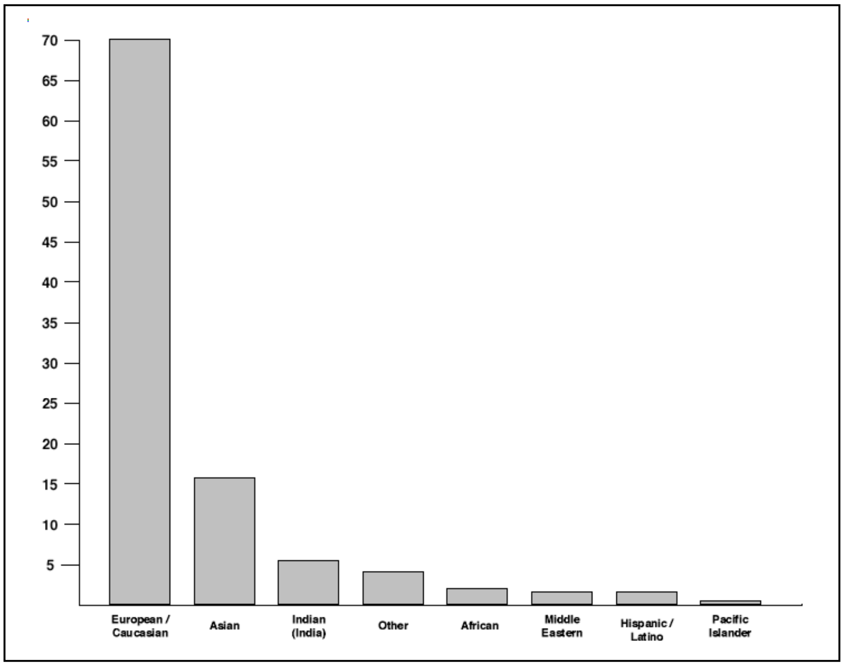

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of Ethnicity

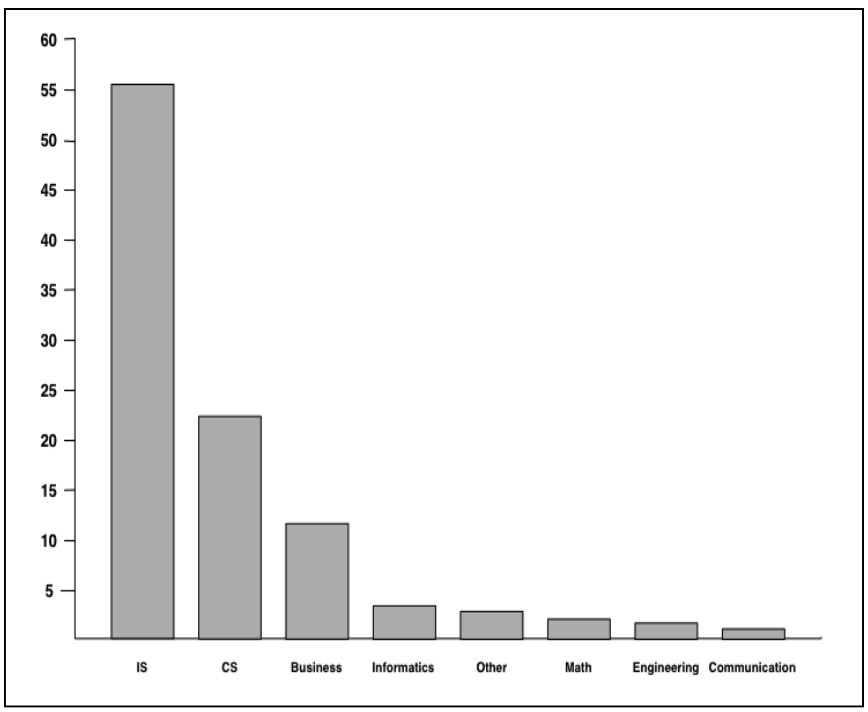

Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of Primary Disciplines in IS Departments

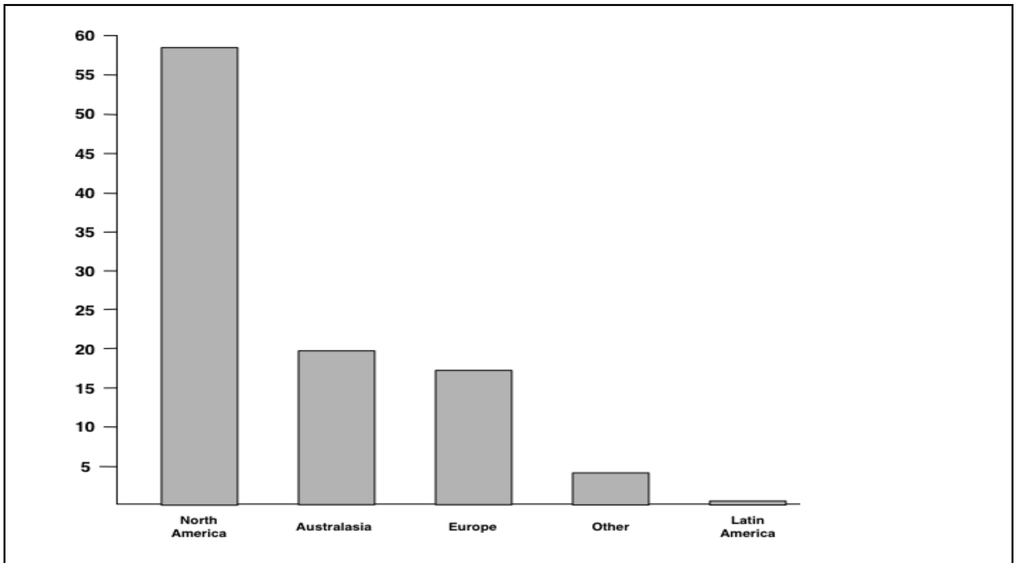

Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Respondents' World Regions

Nearly half of the respondents were made up of senior faculty, comprised of full or associate professors, as shown in Figure 4. As a clarification to Figure 4, the international context of the title "lecturer" may have been problematic, conceivably causing demographic biases in this survey. In several countries, such as Australia, the title "lecturer" can be equivalent to North American titles of assistant, associate, or full professors. British universities commonly use the ranks tutor, senior tutor, lecturer, and senior lecturer. At these universities, lecturer is typically equivalent to an assistant professor in North America. To help alleviate this problem, we asked respondents to provide the North American equivalent of their position. Considering that there were a large number of respondent lecturers who are active researchers in IS (not a common phenomenon in North America, where lecturers generally teach exclusively), these demographic results may have inflated the number of respondent lecturers (as measured in North American terms). This artifact may have led to a deflation of the number of assistant professors and associate professors in the study.

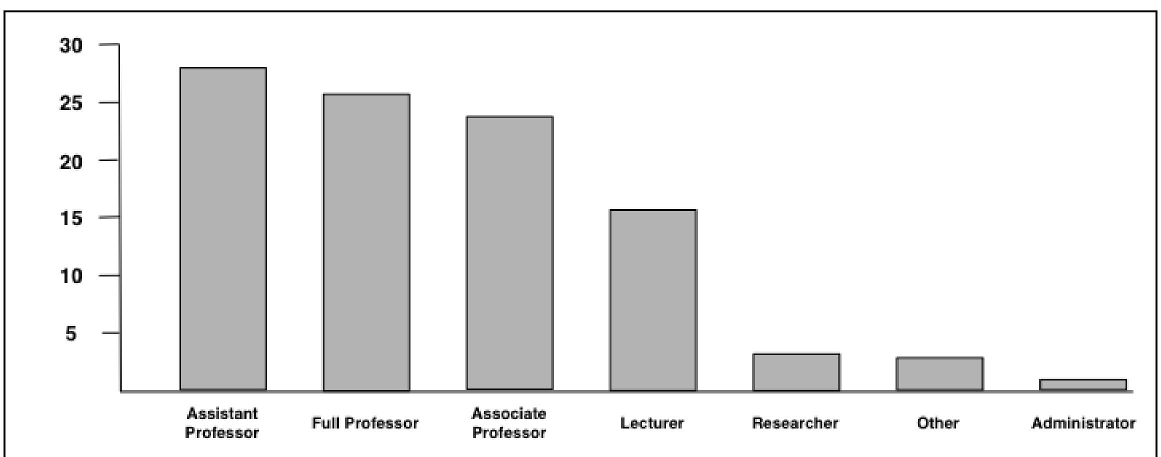

FIGURE 4. ACADEMIC POSITIONS OF TARGET RESPONDENTS

Instrument

To gather data, we deployed a web-based survey that not only examined journal rankings, but also probed for extensive demographic information, such as levels of activity in the IS field (see Appendix I). To encourage target respondents to participate in the study, we sent out three general notices over a period of several weeks. Because sensitive demographic data were solicited, respondents were allowed to respond anonymously. We removed multiple submissions from the same computer and/or same IP address to prevent "ballot stuffing."

Rankings Approach

Our rankings approach asked participants to list and rank up to four journals that they perceived to be the top IS research journals. All rankings were weighted toward the rank-order of the selected journals, as follows: The top-chosen journal received four points, the second-chosen journal received three points, the third-chosen journal received two points, and the fourth-chosen journal received one point.

We chose to use weightings to limit responses to their top-four journals. Consequently, a journal such as *JMIS* may have been voted on as many times as a journal such as *ISR*, but at a lower ranked position. We used the weightings simply to help create stronger delineations, and to emphasize position as a rating consideration. Such weightings of IS journals have been the predominant approach since the Vogel and Wetherbe (1984) study. In doing a comparative analysis between weighted and nominal ratings, all of the top nine journals retained exactly the same position, with *JAIS* moving into the top ten. This lack of difference between nominal and weighted ratings may have occurred simply because we focused on the top-four journals of each respondent. Had we asked for more responses, there may have been greater differences.

Results of Analysis

This section summarizes the results of the analysis, largely in tabular form. Table 2 summarizes the top 25 research journals for all the international respondents, including ratings for all the world regions reflected in Figure 3. Respondents ranked more than twenty-five journals, but the results are truncated to focus on the top journals. Appendix II contains the complete listing of journals, with their abbreviations. Table 3 compares the summary of global results of this study to several previous journal rankings.[8] Table 4 gives examples of differences in selected journal rankings over time, by comparing some of the major journal rankings studies.[9] Table 5 shows the top-rated practitioner journals.[10] Table 6 shows the most-read journals, both practitioner and scholarly.

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[8] The Peffers and Ya study (2003) removed any journals they deemed to not be IS-centric journals, such as all ACM transactions journals, all IEEE transaction journals, *MS, DSCI, JOC*, and they did not allow hybrid or practitioners journals on their list, such as *CACM, HBR,* and *SMR*. However, they included several journals that others may not consider to be IS-centric, such as the *Journal of the ACM.* Hence, one must be careful in making direct comparisons with their study to the other studies on Table 3.

[9] These comparisons need to be interpreted with great caution, given the different time frames and methodologies that were used to create these different rankings, as noted in the previous section. Data for 1991 is from (Gillenson and Stutz, 1991); data for 1994 is from (Holsapple et al., 1994); data for 1997 is from (Hardgrave and Walstrom, 1997); data for 1999 is from (Whitman et al., 1999); data from 2001 is

In addition to this analysis, we asked respondents optionally to name their top reference or supporting disciplines (if they had any), and the top two journals for publishing in these disciplines as an active IS researcher. As this information was optional, and not all academics reported outside supporting disciplines, the response rates to these questions varied greatly. None of the supporting discipline names were given in pre-determined baskets. Thus, respondents were required to define and name their supporting disciplines. We clustered these responses into common groupings by similarities in the disciplines, as shown in Table 7.

A close examination of Table 7 shows that the top supporting discipline for these respondents is computer science, followed by business and behavioral sciences. Tables 8-16 list the top journals for the top seven reference (or supporting) disciplines in which active IS researchers publish. It is important to note that these rankings are likely to vary from separate journal rankings that focus solely on these outside fields. For example, "pure" Computer Science researchers rank the *Journal of the ACM (JACM)* highly, whereas IS researchers who report Computer Science as a supporting discipline rank *CACM* and *IEEE Transactions* highly. Our rankings provide a unique viewpoint because they list the top journals in supporting disciplines for publishing IS-related research in those disciplines.

Discussion

This study resulted in unexpected insights into the makeup of IS departments throughout the world. The demographic data indicate that globally IS departments house many academics who have little or no involvement in the IS field, as evidenced by the fact 2559 faculty responded from the 414 IS-related departments, yet only 1572 of the respondents have PhDs and consider themselves to be fully active in the IS field. The academics who are "in the IS field but not of the IS field" are likely professors who teach IS classes but do not actively contribute to IS conferences and journals; they also likely include professors who are placed in IS departments for administrative or political convenience. Yet, the data clearly indicate that the IS field is highly dynamic and multidisciplinary, with many active IS researchers having joined the field from other disciplines. These empirical insights into the make-up of international IS departments further highlight the need to target active IS academics for future studies, so that the results generalize to this audience.

This research also contributes to further understanding as to which journals in mainstream IS research is considered to be of the highest quality. The data analysis reveals that all participants, regardless of geographic region, agree that *MISQ* and *ISR* are the top research journals in mainstream IS studies. The data also create obvious quality delineations between journals. For example, *MISQ* and *ISR* are the clear leaders in mainstream IS research, and *JMIS*, *Management Science (MS)*, and *CACM* provide the next tier of leading mainstream journals.

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from (Mylonopolous and Theoharakis, 2001); data for 2003 is from the present study. Note: the methodologies used for these various studies differed.
[10] The Peffers and Ya study (2003) showed the same top-three practitioner journals in the same order.

Moreover, the data reveal salient differences in perceived journal quality among the major world regions. Because of its large presence of active IS researchers, North America wields a strong overall influence (and potential regional bias) to the overall world rankings. North American academics tend to favor decision-science and management science oriented journals (e.g., *DSCI*, *DSS*, and *MS*) more than academics in other world regions—especially Europe. Meanwhile, *CACM* appears to be losing favor in North American more rapidly than in other regions. These findings should not be surprising as previous research has concluded that North Americans tend to focus on positivist, empirical, and highly rigorous research (Benbasat and Weber, 1996; Chua et al., 2003), as is reflected in the journal preferences in this study.

Another key difference is that the European academics tend to prefer more behavioral-, interpretivist-, and practitioner-oriented journals than North American researchers. This finding is also supported by research claims that European researchers prefer active participation in research, focus less on positivism than North American researchers, and elevate relevance over rigor (Avgerou et al., 1999; Chua et al., 2003; Ridley and Keen, 1998).[11]

These differences between European and North American IS academics should not be interpreted as judgments. A recent citation study showed that quality European IS journals tend to be grossly under-rated in traditional IS journal ranking studies (Katerattanakul and Han, 2003). The Katerattanakul and Han (2003) study shows *EJIS*, *ISJ*, *JIT*, and *JSIS* to be of similar quality to traditional leading journals such as *MISQ* and *ISR*. When breaking down our results by world regions, these journals also appear to be ranked highly in the European region (but not as highly esteemed in North America). The lack of representation of these journals in quality rankings likely has more to do with lack of knowledge of European perspectives than the lack of quality of their top journals. Hence global IS researchers should seriously consider including such outlets as "high quality" journals, and reassessing views that judge positivist research to be superior to other forms of research.

Turning from North America and Europe, this study also embraces the global nature of the field of IS by including world regions that have been growing rapidly in IS, regions such as Australasia and Latin America. These regions, in particular, will likely have profound effects on the future composition of the IS community in that they represent high-growth areas in higher education and research. Thus, it is likely more journals will emerge from these regions and become increasingly influential. An intriguing example is the recent introduction of the *ACM Transactions on Asian Language Information Processing (TALIP)*. Another example is the *Journal of Global Information Management (JGIM)*, which shows an increased recognition of the importance of non-European and non-North-American perspectives on IS.

By comparing this study to previous journal rankings (as seen in Table 3 and Table 4), we can make several other important inferences. Regardless of the ranking approach, *MISQ* and *ISR* have maintained their preeminent positions for intellectual leadership in the mainstream IS field. Also, regardless of the rankings approach that is used, *DSS* has consistently gained in prestige over time. *IEEE Transactions (IEEET)* journals and various *ACM Transactions (ACMT)* journals continue to be top outlets, especially in specialized areas such as database and software engineering.

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[11] While geography and epistemology are correlated, the correlation is not perfect. For example, Wanda Orlikowski and Dan Robey are American researchers who are known for their interpretive work.

Meanwhile, three journals are quickly moving up in importance and are on a trajectory to challenge the leading IS journals: *Information and Management (I&M)*, *European Journal of IS (EJIS)*, and *Journal of the AIS (JAIS)*. The rise of *JAIS*, in particular, appears to be swift (although not as rapid in Europe). This rise is likely attributable to its strong editorial board and imprimatur from the Association of Information Systems (AIS).

Several journals appear to be dropping in stature in the minds of IS researchers, including *Management Science*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *Sloan Management Review (SMR)*. One possible explanation for these changes is that these journals only dedicate a relatively small percentage of their journal space to IS topics, and their selection of IS topics is fairly narrow; in contrast, several newer journals, such as *ISR*, have emerged to focus solely on the IS discipline.

This research also provides valuable insights into journal quality rankings by separating research and practitioner journal rankings. The results indicate that several journals appear to be "hybrids" that represent both research and practitioner perspectives, as demonstrated by the fact that these journals rank highly on both the research and practitioner rankings. Examples of hybrid journals include *CACM*, *HBR*, *SMR*, *IEEEC*, and *IEEES*.

The results also indicate which top academic journals and top practitioner journals are the most widely read, and thus, are more likely to yield influence than lower rated journals.[12] Although there is less IS research content in *CACM*, *HBR*, and *SMR* than in journals such as *ISR* and *MISQ*, they are still widely read and highly influential within the IS academic community, as well as in industry. Thus, researchers (especially from North America) should be slow to dismiss the importance of these hybrid journals.

This study also highlights the most-read journals, a measure that may have some relationship to journal influence. For example, *ISR* is read more than *MISQ*, a difference which may indicate that it is gaining ground on *MISQ* in terms of influence. Finally, although *JAIS* is a rising research journal, it is absent from the top-25 most-read list. In fact, the only exclusively electronic journal on the most-read list is *CAIS*, suggesting possible issues regarding access and the readership influence of such electronic IS journals. However, we believe this is a short-term issue, as research has indicated articles that are online and freely available have more influence and are more heavily cited than other articles (Lawrence, 2001). Thus, it is likely *CAIS* is currently more widely read than *JAIS* only because *CAIS* has been freely available longer than *JAIS*.

With respect to methodological contributions, the use of free recall in providing journal rankings is an innovation in IS journal ranking studies. The use of free recall has been shown to be powerful in other research settings because it allows researchers to probe deeper and find unexpected responses that cannot be found when using fixed-choice options (Woike, 2001). Similarly, open-responses in surveys (as opposed to pre-determined responses) better reveal a respondent's frame of reference (Neuman, 2000). Free recall of a small number of rank-ordered

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[12] It is important to note that readership is one of many factors that can be used to assess journal influence. Other factors include research citations, citations in popular press, implementation in educational textbooks, adoption and diffusion of ideas through industry practice, and so forth.

journals requires respondents to use journals with which they are familiar and to be selective in prioritizing them.

In contrast to the benefits of free recall, the use of pre-selected, alphabetized baskets of IS journals can introduce potential ordering, memory, familiarity, fatigue, anchoring, and selection biases. Journal baskets can cause some journals to receive higher rankings based on the familiarity of their name or early appearance in a journal basket. Additionally, the use of large baskets can cause fatigue and other unintended results, especially when respondents choose to rank journals with which they are only vaguely familiar. Large baskets can also cause many low-quality journals to be ranked that would not otherwise be considered. Predetermined baskets can also exclude journals that particular researchers find salient. Furthermore, by using predetermined baskets an "anchoring effect" can occur in which respondents are likely to only rate the journals in a basket, as opposed to suggesting new ones (Chua et al., 2003). Predetermined baskets can cause journal rankings studies to become self-fulfilling prophecies over time, because researchers of IS rankings tend to build on baskets used by previous ranking researchers—causing specialty areas to be ignored over time (Chua et al., 2003). Similarly, previous rankings studies have given too much weight to mainstream IS research areas through the use of predetermined journal baskets—a methodological choice that disenfranchises legitimate and high quality IS research in specialty contributing disciplines (Chua et al., 2003; Walczak, 1999).

Moving beyond journal rankings, this research also provides a useful picture of the leading IS supporting (or reference) disciplines and their journals. Although global IS journal rankings are useful for understanding mainstream IS research, these rankings do not reflect well on the supporting disciplines in which IS researchers produce substantial volumes of research. For example, HCI journals (among many other areas of research) rarely appear highly on overall IS journal rankings, yet the HCI supporting discipline has journals that are considered by HCI researchers to be of similar quality (or higher quality) to mainstream IS journals. Hence, previous journal rankings have focused too much on mainstream IS research, a decision which will always marginalize high-quality specialty areas (Chua et al., 2003):

> Regardless of the niche community's efforts to declare a particular journal as relevant, the fact that they are a niche community means that their total voice is overwhelmed by the voice of the majority of the respondents on the survey (Chua et al., 2003) p.151.

Thus, instead of casting off the supporting-discipline-specific results as statistical outliers, an act which is typically done in journal ranking research (Chua et al., 2003), this study seeks out these "minority" viewpoints as valuable insights into the quality journals in their respective supporting disciplines. The related demographic results also provide a useful snapshot in time as to the major supporting disciplines that are currently utilized throughout the field of IS.

Limitations and Potential Issues of This Study

Despite the contributions of this research, it still has several limitations, which suggests areas that can be improved in future studies. These limitations include: use of free recall and self-reported data; IS field as a moving target; differences in lower-ranked journals based on position and tenure status; North-American biases; problems with self-reports on IEEE and ACM journals; and focus on top IS journals, as opposed to niche journals.

Use of free recall: Although the use of free recall in providing the journal responses has many positive aspects, as previously discussed, it also has limitations. One limitation is that free recall relies on long-term memory and knowledge of particular journals. Thus, one's memory can cause one to misreport one's true intentions. On the other hand, in asking only for the top four research journals, we did not require respondents to probe deeply into their memory—as long as they are active IS researchers who are familiar with IS journals. This has the positive effect of helping to eliminate responses from those who have vague or no familiarity with the IS field.

A potential limitation of the use of free recall in journal surveys is the possible introduction of primacy and recency effects. Substantial research on these effects has been conducted in psychological research in learning and memory. Such research has shown that when people are required to learn long lists, a smaller proportion of words can be rehearsed (or recalled into use) and those words that are not rehearsed are harder to recall (Ward, 2002). The question is whether this would apply to free recall in journal rankings: It is possible that as a professor is exposed to a greater number of journals that those journals used most recently are more likely to be recalled in a free recall response.

Another limitation of free recall is that all the data has to be carefully cleaned and coded. Thus, this allows the introduction of misspelling, misnaming, and misidentification of journals by respondents. We were pleasantly surprised, however, that we actually had few problems in cleaning the response data. What we found is that by requiring the top four research journals, and so forth, via free recall, respondents generally only filled out information when they were familiar with specific IS journals. Thus, virtually the only problem we encountered was the use of acronyms and misspellings, which were relatively straightforward to clean. We anticipate that this would be a greater problem had we allowed unlimited journal responses because respondents would have rated more journals with which they had vague familiarity or for which they had poor recall.

Use of self-reported data: The results are based on perceptions of active IS researchers from survey data. This study does not utilize other salient elements that can be used to define journal quality such as rejection rates, editorial board make-up, review process, and so forth.

IS field as a moving target: The IS field is a highly dynamic, growing field that creates limitations in journal ranking studies in that key journals and subtopics change over time. The IS field in 1991 is not the same as the IS field in 2003. For example, IS now includes more subtopics and more IS-specific journals. This change is reflected in comparisons of journal influence over time.

Differences by academic position and tenure status: One tradition of IS surveys that we followed in this research was to embrace a selection bias that leaned toward more senior academics and away from PhD students. Although deans and tenure and promotion committees often feel more comfortable with senior people determining the key journals, this decision weakens the potential voice of students and junior academics who will eventually lead the IS field.

Appendix III demonstrates rankings broken down by academic position and by tenure, which can provide some insight into the potential differences in rankings based on seniority. This appendix shows that the rankings are virtually the same across academic levels and tenure status for the first seven journal ranking positions. However, after that, there are significant variances in ratings. One of the contributing factors to these results is that we only asked for the top four research journals and weighted them accordingly. Thus, determining the significance of the variance in the lower-rated journals by academic rank will require further investigation. More important, we cannot determine from this study the implicit meaning of these variances. For example, do assistant professors shift their opinions of journals before and after tenure decisions? Do associate and full professors rate more highly journals for which they serve on editorial boards? How stable are journal opinions over time, based on where one has published? Do the opinions of untenured professors reflect lack of experience or increased research standards from their home institutions?

North-American bias: The large proportion of active IS researchers from North America in the sample has a strong overall influence (and potential cultural bias) on the overall world rankings. As an example, the *Journal of Information Systems (JIS)*, which is a leading accounting information systems (AIS) journal published by the American Accounting Association (AAA), appears on the world rankings at number nineteen largely because it ranks at number seventeen in North America and thirteen in Australasia. Yet, it does not appear on the European and "other" ratings—possibly because it is an AAA journal.[13] On the other hand, these sorts of overall bias in "world" ratings may reflect the reality of the IS discipline, given that a disproportionate number of international IS academics received their PhDs from U.S.-based institutions. Either way, this study helps counterbalance this limitation by providing region-based rankings that can help to sort out valuation differences based on culture.

Problems with IEEE and ACM journals: A key limitation in this study, and virtually every other IS journal ranking study, is the likely double counting of *IEEE Transactions* and *ACM Transactions* journals. The majority of respondents in this study did not rank individual *IEEE Transactions* journals or *ACM Transactions* journals, which is a curious phenomenon considering the respondents gave free-recall responses. Most participants generally made the entries of "*IEEE Transactions*" or "*ACM Transactions*" for top research journals and top-read journals. This is a likely reflection of the general belief in the IS research community that all *IEEE Transactions* journals and all *ACM Transactions* journal are of high, comparable quality. However, this may also reflect confounding and preconditioning from other ranking studies that included "*IEEE Transactions*" and "*ACM Transactions*" as sweeping journal categories in their predetermined journal baskets. This tradition may have created strong learning effects and biases that influenced this study. This limitation potentially impacts Table 8, and some of the other tables such as Table 3.

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[13]*JIS* does not appear in the top-25 in other published IS journal rankings. Thus, *JIS* is either a "rising" journal or this ranking is an artifact of this study. In examining Appendix III, which breaks down journal rankings by position, *JIS* is not rated in the top-25 by assistant professors or full professors, but is rated at number fourteen by associate professors. One possible interpretation of these results is *JIS* was not considered to be high quality in IS in the distant past or in recent times by US academics, yet at some time in between (during the tenure evaluation period for many current associate professors) it was considered a high quality journal by US academics. Or this result may be an artifact due to sampling error. Further research is needed to substantiate what is occurring with *JIS*.

This phenomenon of grouping all *IEEE Transactions* journals and *ACM Transactions* journals is somewhat curious in that this tradition does not occur with more traditional IS journals. For example, it could be strongly argued that all "Elsevier journals" or all "INFORMS journals" are of high quality, but such responses are rarely found in IS journal ranking studies. The key difference may also be the sheer volume of IEEE and ACM journals.

The potential problem with these responses is that when all *IEEE Transactions* and *ACM Transactions* journals are treated as if they are one journal, the rankings results will be skewed in favor of these transactions journals. For example, there are eighty-five *IEEE* transactions and research journals. Yet, of these eighty-five journals, only a minority are likely to be highly relevant to IS research or provide viable cross-over publishing opportunities for IS researchers who emphasize technical research areas. Likewise, there are twenty-six transactions and research journals published by the ACM; of these, only a minority is also likely to be highly relevant to IS research. These disparities call into question how the IS community esteems and tracks IEEE and ACM journals. It is likely more helpful for faculty development, promotion, and tenure to focus on specific journals that are relevant to IS research rather than using sweeping categorizations that contain highly irrelevant journals that, despite their high quality, virtually no IS researcher publishes in.

Focused on top IS journals: Another key limitation is that the focus on selecting top research journals in IS creates a journal distribution that does not well represent middle-tier and low-tier journals. Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001) give a broader representation of high-, middle-, and low-tier journals . Additionally, journal rankings data on supporting disciplines has limited generalizability because of the fragmented responses that occurred from the large distribution of supporting disciplines.

A related issue is that this study very likely has a built-in bias against niche IS journals. The survey asked for top IS research journals, top IS practitioner journals, and the top journals for respondents' supporting disciplines. In doing so, the study helps paint a picture of the research diversity in IS, except in IS-specific niche journals, which should not be confused with reference or supporting disciplines.

As a hypothetical illustration of how our design may have marginalized niche journals, assume that one of a respondent's interests is Internet crime: The respondent may be likely to pick *MISQ*, *ISR*, *JMIS*, or other "generic" IS journals as top research journals because all of the respondent's interests may be adequately represented in these journals, these journals are universally recognized, the respondent has other interests, and the respondent can only pick four top journals. As a result, the researcher may be less likely to pick quality niche journals such as the *Internet Technology & Law Journal* (which, incidentally, does not appear in the rankings). Furthermore, Internet crime is not generally considered to be an IS reference discipline, so it would not be reflected in the reference discipline rankings.

Hence, by only allowing respondents to list four top research journals, something of a "Matthew Effect"[14] could be occurring. That is, it is possible our study defines the top research journals

[14] The "Matthew Effect" is a scientometric phenomenon that involves problematic scientific reward systems where top N of anything (such as journal rankings) are considered "excellent", but the N+1, N+2, N+3,… of the same thing could be "as good" in reality, even though it is not represented on the list

very clearly, but under-rates high-quality niche journals. For example, if we had allowed respondents to pick any number of high-quality research journals, *IJEC* would likely have appeared on the mainstream IS journals list, albeit toward the bottom of this list.

Future Research Possibilities

Future research can build on the limitations and strengths of this research in several ways by including niche journals, inquiring about niche areas, exploring how access to journals affects journal rankings, expanding questions on supporting disciplines, examining the effects of inactive researchers, and conducting research to verify the external validity of these results.

Focus on niche journals: To try to overcome the "Matthew Effect" experienced in this study, and to better represent IS niche journals, two approaches could be taken. First, a future study could utilize free response, but allow unlimited numbers of journals to be ranked. Second, in addition to asking respondents about reference discipline journals, a future study could ask for IS niche journals as well. Such a survey could ask respondents to state the niche with which they identify and then list their top journals that cater to that niche. Such an investigation can also focus on sub-communities within IS that are based on methodologies (e.g., experiments, simulation, analytical modeling, action research), IS topics of interest, and research epistemology (e.g., positivist, post-positivist, interpretivist, critical) (Chua et al., 2003).

Effect of journal access on rankings: Noting the rapid rise of *JAIS* as a quality publication outlet, we could expand this inquiry by studying how access to a high quality journal affects its prominence over time. Access to *JAIS* is free to all AIS members and open to the public until December of 2004. Therefore, will the combination of easy electronic access to *JAIS*—along with its high-quality editorial board, highly timely publication process (because it is published electronically), and high-quality content—accelerate the prominence of *JAIS*? This is a highly pertinent question for journal editors to sort out. The answer can have a significant effect on electronic journals, printed journals, and electronic distribution of journal content. We believe free electronic access to *JAIS* will dramatically increase its readership and influence. Recent research (Lawrence, 2001) supports this claim.

Focus on supporting disciplines: Future studies could focus on gathering larger samples of IS-specific supporting disciplines (or reference disciplines) for stronger generalizability. For example, a survey to gather more in-depth information about the supporting discipline of HCI could be constructed that only targets active IS researchers involved in HCI.

Inactive researchers: It may be useful to investigate the degree to which inactive IS researchers and those from other disciplines who reside in IS departments impact decisions involving journal quality (e.g., tenure, hiring). This would strengthen support regarding whether nonparticipating members of the IS community should be excluded from IS rankings.

(Merton, 1968). The "Matthew Effect" extends to many areas of scientific reward systems, including junior collaborators receiving less credit and visibility than scientists of acknowledged standing working on the same paper (Merton, 1968). Applied to journal rankings, this is a common bias in considering journal prestige as many schools will only consider the top two or three journals on a list as "A" (or the highest quality) journals, when others may be of similar quality.

External validity: Finally, it would also be useful to compare these studies to externally verifiable data to find and validate other key patterns that may indicate journal quality. For example, are there strong correlations between assessed journal quality and rejection rates, number of years in publication, form of publication (i.e., print versus electronic), make-up of the editorial board, and the peer-review process selected?

Conclusion

IS journal rankings tend to have a galvanizing effect on the IS research community. Some researchers embrace rankings as an important source of input to academic decisions and for defining the structure of the field, whereas others claim such ratings have a pernicious effect on academic freedom. Although journal ratings can be misused, they can provide several benefits to the IS community that extend beyond the traditional use of evaluating the work of colleagues: (1) journal rankings help researchers and practitioners know where to find leading research (Hamilton and Ives, 1980); (2) they help researchers find appropriate publishing outlets (Hamilton and Ives, 1980); (3) they encourage improvement and self-analysis by journal editors; (4) they help libraries decide where to invest scarce funds for acquiring journals, and identify affordable sources of high-quality research; and (5) they provide insights into what academics consider the leading journals at any given time. Such insights are particularly useful as the importance of particular journals continually evolves over time.

Although journal rankings can provide benefits, they can also be misused. Using journal rankings as part of tenure and promotion decisions may be their most controversial use, especially when rankings are used as the primary or sole approach to evaluate a candidate. In evaluating the quality of an academic's contribution to research, several other approaches can be considered: (1) evaluating the quality of the journals in which one's articles appear; (2) assessing the number of times one's works have been cited by others; (3) having external experts qualitatively evaluate the quality and contribution of one's articles; (4) counting the number of articles published by the scholar; and, (5) evaluating the external impact of one's work in terms of adoption by practitioners, use in classroom texts, patents, and citations by national press and television. All of these approaches are potentially flawed and subjective, and can lead to misuse and unintended consequences, especially when evaluators focus on only one or two evaluation techniques. For example, although citation analysis can be effective in determining whether or not a work has any impact on other academics, it has a built-in time prejudice. Many seminal works do not become seminal within the relatively short period it takes to make tenure and promotion decisions. It often takes years for the true impact and importance of many works to become manifest.

Besides issues with citation analysis, inappropriate use of journal rankings can also create problems in promotion and tenure decisions. It is a common practice to judge a work in the short-term by the quality of the journal outlet in which it appears. This tends to be a useful heuristic because high-quality journals are more likely to produce influential work that is cited than lower-quality journals. High-quality journals also have the most visible and credible editorial review boards who insist on the highest intellectual standards. Also, high-quality journals tend to have high readership, which also increases the probability of influence.

However, not everything that appears in a high-quality journal is equal in quality and importance. Some works that appear in high-quality journals quickly fade into obscurity and have no lasting influence on the academic community. Some highly rigorous works not only lack relevance to practitioners, but also relevance to researchers. Conversely, not everything in a lower quality journal is of low quality. Some innovative and highly influential works are published in lower-quality journals because they did not fit the intellectual paradigms or requirements of higher quality journals. Also, some researchers prefer to publish much of their work in lower quality journals, especially after they have become established in the IS community, because they can publish their ideas much more quickly than in high-quality journals, which are notorious for lengthy, laborious review cycles that can hurt the timeliness (and thus sometimes relevance) of one's research contributions. A similar argument can be made with respect to the unrecognized excellence of articles published in niche journals, which seldom appear in the lists of mainstream journals.

A more fundamental issue than pre-judging articles on the basis of the quality of a journal is the use of one methodological approach (or research source) to determine what is and is not a high-quality journal. Chua et al. (2003) rightly argue that there is a strong relationship between the method being used and the results. This is true whether one rates journals using survey, citation analyses, or any other method.

Given the potential abuses of using journal rankings as a sole or primary basis of determining "quality" in academic evaluations, we advocate the use of multiple evaluation techniques, including journal rankings. Although some may consider journal rankings inherently dangerous, IS academics cannot escape the fact that academia is filled with subjective peer evaluation. We subjectively evaluate our students, we subjectively review and critique each other's work, and we subjectively evaluate each other for promotion, reward, and tenure decisions. In evaluating the research of our peers, we can make these decisions blindly or use as many objective external sources as possible to make better informed judgments. Journal rankings provide key evidence in this regard.

In sum, the results of this scientometric study need to be used with caution and triangulated with other forms of data. No single study can realistically address all the elements of journal quality that are salient to all IS researchers and particular institutions; thus, IS researchers should use sound judgment to draw conclusions. Other data that likely should be considered include citation analyses, qualitative factors of journals (e.g., editorial board composition, rejection rates, review procedures, audience), and one's institutional objectives.

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Table 2. Journal Rankings by World Regions										
Rank	**World**	**Weight**	**North America**	**Weight**	**Australasia**	**Weight**	**Europe**	**Weight**	**Other**	**Weight**
1	*MISQ*	2277	*MISQ*	1431	*MISQ*	401	*MISQ*	255	*MISQ*	155
2	*ISR*	1806	*ISR*	1277	*ISR*	250	*ISR*	152	*ISR*	91
3	*JMIS*	649	*JMIS*	512	*CACM*	71	*CACM*	58	*CACM*	33
4	*MS*	598	*MS*	459	*JMIS*	70	*EJIS*	39	*MS*	32
5	*CACM*	457	*CACM*	287	*MS*	70	*ISJ*	28	*JMIS*	26
6	*DSCI*	139	*DSCI*	121	*I&M*	27	*JMIS*	28	*I&M*	13
7	*DSS*	134	*DSS*	104	*EJIS*	24	*MS*	21	*IEEET*	10
8	*IEEET*	116	*IEEET*	67	*IEEET*	24	*HBR*	19	*ACMT*	9
9	*I&M*	90	*OS*	46	*ACMT*	21	*WIRT*	19	*DSCI*	9
10	*ACMT*	82	*JAIS*	44	*ISJ*	20	*ACMT*	15	*JSIS*	8
11	*EJIS*	76	*I&M*	41	*JAIS*	18	*IEEET*	15	*ISJ*	6
12	*JAIS*	67	*ACMT*	36	*DSS*	10	*I&O*	14	*DSS*	5
13	*ISJ*	66	*JOC*	29	*JIS*	9	*ISYS*	13	*IJIM*	5
14	*OS*	59	*OR*	27	*DSCI*	8	*JSIS*	13	*JAIS*	5
15	*HBR*	41	*JCIS*	20	*JSIS*	8	*DSS*	10	*ACMTCS*	4
16	*JOC*	36	*IEEETSE*	16	*IEEES*	7	*ACMTOIS*	9	*ACMTODS*	4
17	*OR*	34	*JIS*	16	*IJEC*	7	*OS*	9	*ASQ*	4
18	*JSIS*	33	*DATA BASE*	14	*IT&P*	7	*I&M*	8	*HBR*	4
19	*JIS*	31	*HBR*	13	*ISYS*	7	*ACMTOCHI*	7	*IT&P*	4
20	*I&O*	24	*IEEEC*	13	*JIT*	7	*HCI*	7	*ISOC*	4
21	*ISYS*	24	*ISJ*	12	*JITM*	6	*EM*	6	*JIER*	4
22	*IEEETSE*	23	*SMR*	12	*JACM*	5	*IJIM*	5	*OR*	4
23	*JCIS*	22	*CAIS*	10	*MISQE*	4	*JIT*	5	*ACMTODS*	3
24	*WIRT*	19	*ACMTOCHI*	9	*IP&M*	4	*IEEES*	4	*AMR*	3
25	*IEEEC*	17	*ASQ*	8	*JOC*	4	*INFSJ*	4	*EJIS*	3

Table 3. This Study Compared to Other Studies

Rank	This study (all regions)	(Peffers and Ya, 2003)	(Mylonopolous and Theoharakis, 2001)	(Whitman et al., 1999)	(Hardgrave and Walstrom, 1997)	(Holsapple et al., 1994)	(Gillenson and Stutz, 1991)
1	*MISQ*	*MISQ*	*MISQ*	*MISQ*	*MISQ*	*MISQ*	*MS*
2	*ISR*	*ISR*	*CACM*	*MS*	*ISR*	*CACM*	*MISQ*
3	*JMIS*	*JMIS*	*ISR*	*CACM*	*MS*	*MS*	*CACM*
4	*MS*	*EJIS*	*JMIS*	*ISR*	*CACM*	*HBR*	*DSCI*
5	*CACM*	*I&M (tied 5th)*	*MS*	*DSCI*	*JMIS*	*I&M*	*JMIS*
6	*DSCI*	*CAIS (tied 5th)*	*IEEET*	*JMIS*	*DSCI*	*JMIS*	*JACM*
7	*DSS*	*DSS*	*HBR*	*HBR*	*IEEETSE*	*SMR*	*ACMT*
8	*IEEET*	*DATA BASE*	*DSCI*	*IEEET*	*OS*	*Datamation*	*IEEET*
9	*I&M*	*JAIS*	*DSS*	*SMR*	*HBR*	*IEEETSE*	*ACMCS*
10	*ACMT*	*ISJ*	*I&M*	*JACM*	*DSS*	*DSCI*	*HBR*
11	*EJIS*	*IRMJ*	*EJIS*	*IEEEC*	*ACMTODS*	*ASQ (tied 11th)*	*IEEEC*
12	*JAIS*	*IJEC*	*SMR*	*ACMT*	*IEEET*	*DSS (tied 11th)*	*I&M*
13	*ISJ*	*JCIS*	*ACMT*	*DSS*	*SMR*	*AMJ*	*SMR*
14	*OS*	*JDM*	*DATA BASE*	*ACMCS*	*ACMCS*	*ComputerWorld*	*JISM*
15	*HBR*	*IT&P*	*OS*	*I&M*	*AMJ*	*ACMCS*	*ISYS*
16	*JOC*	*JSIS*	*ISJ*	*ISYS*	*ASQ*	*JSM*	*IRMJ*
17	*OR*	*JACM*	*AMJ*	*DATA BASE*	*ACMT*	*Interfaces*	*JSM*
18	*JSIS*	*IS Frontiers*	*CAIS*	*JISE*	*OR*	*AI*	*IJIM*
19	*JIS*	*JGIM*	*IEEEC*	*Interfaces*	*AMR*	*ACMTODS*	*ACMSIG*
20	*I&O*	*MISQ Discovery*	*JSIS*	*IJHCS*	*I&M*	*AMR*	*JCIS*
21	*ISYS*	*ISYS*	*ASQ*	*JDM*	*OBHDP*	*Database*	*JISCI*
22	*IEEETSE*	*JEUC*	*AMR*	*IJIM*	*IJHCS*	*DATA BASE*	*JCSS*
23	*JCIS*	*JGITM*	*IJEC*	*OR*	*HCI*	*IJHCS*	*IP&M*
24	*WIRT*	*Informing Science*	*ACMCS*	*Omega*	*Omega*	*OR*	*SP&E*
25	*IEEEC*	*Australian Journal of IS*	*AMIT*	*JISCI*	*JSIS*	*IEEEC*	*CJ*

Table 4. Comparing Selected Results of Various Rankings Studies							
Journal	**1991**[15]	**1994**[16]	**1997**[17]	**1999**[18]	**2001**[19]	**2003**[20]	**This study**
JMIS	5	6	5	6	4	3	3
DSS	Started in 1991	11	10	13	9	7	7
I&M	12	5	20	15	10	9	9
EJIS	Started in 1992	Not ranked	Not ranked	Not ranked	11	11	11
JAIS	Started in 2000	Started in 2000	Started in 2000	Started in 2000	30	9	12
MS	1	3	3	2	5	Not ranked	4
CACM	3	2	4	3	2[21]	Not ranked	5
HBR	10	4	9	7	7	Not ranked	15
SMR	13	7	13	9	12	Not ranked	Not ranked

Table 5. Top Global Practitioner Journals		
Rank	**Journal**	**Weight**
1.	*Communications of the ACM (CACM)*	344
2.	*Harvard Business Review (HBR)*	273
3.	*Sloan Management Review (SMR)*	128
4.	*ComputerWorld*	71
5.	*CIO Magazine*	55
6.	*InformationWeek*	41
7.	*IEEE Computer (IEEEC)*	36
8.	*Interfaces*	32
9.	*Datamation*	17
10.	*IEEE Software (IEEES)*	17
11.	*MISQ Executive (MISQE)*	16
12.	*The DATA BASE for Advances in IS (DATA BASE)*	15
13.	*IBM Systems Journal (IBM)*	13
14.	*InfoWorld*	12
15.	*California Management Review (CMR)*	9
16.	*eWeek*	8
17.	*Business 2.0*	7

[15] Gillenson and Stutz (1991)
[16] Holsapple et al. (1994)
[17] Hardgrave and Walstrom (1997)
[18] Whitman et al. (1999)
[19] Mylonopolous and Theoharakis (2001)
[20] The basket for the Peffers and Ya study (2003) excluded non-IS journals, hybrid journals, and practitioner journals.
[21] The Mylonopolous and Theoharakis study (2001) showed *CACM* as number two in the nominal ratings (number of votes); however, the average weighted position in their study for *CACM* was 6.2, which is much more consistent with our results.

18.	*Dr Dobb's Journal*	6
19.	*Economist*	6
20.	*Information Strategy*	6
21.	*DM Review*	5
22.	*McKinsey Quarterly*	3
23.	*Wired*	3

Table 6. Top Globally Read Journals

Rank	**Journal**	**Weight**	**Journal type**
1.	*ISR*	84	Research
2.	*MISQ*	69	Research
3.	*CACM*	48	Practitioner and research
4.	*JMIS*	26	Research
5.	*HBR*	24	Practitioner and research
6.	*Management Science*	20	Research
7.	*SMR*	20	Practitioner and research
8.	*IEEE Computer*	16	Practitioner and research
9.	*DSS*	14	Research
10.	*Decision Sciences*	12	Research
11.	*I&M*	11	Research
12.	*ComputerWorld*	10	Practitioner
13.	*CIO Magazine*	9	Practitioner
14.	*JCIS*	9	Research
15.	*Organization Science*	8	Research
16.	*IEEE Software*	5	Practitioner and research
17.	*IEEE Transactions journals*	4	Research
18.	*InformationWeek*	4	Practitioner
19.	*Interfaces*	4	Research
20.	*Academy of Management Journal*	3	Research
21.	*CAIS*	3	Research
22.	*EJIS*	3	Research
23.	*IJEC*	3	Research
24.	*IT&P*	3	Research
25.	*InfoWorld*	3	Practitioner

Table 7. Top Global IS Supporting Disciplines					
Rank	**Supporting discipline category**	**Supporting disciplines included in the category**	**N (%) Total= 1274**	**weight**	**Table with journal rankings**
1.	Computer Science	Computer Science, Software Engineering, Databases, Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge Management, Security, Data Mining, Systems Architecture, Networking, and Data Warehousing.	257 (20%)	381	Table 9
2.	Business	Business, Business Administration, Strategy, Marketing, Management Science, Finance, and International Business.	239 (19%)	369	Table 10
3.	Behavioral Sciences	Psychology, Sociology, Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Communication, Cognitive Science, Behavioral Science, Social Sciences, Behavioral Psychology, and Collaboration.	190 (15%)	269	Table 11
4.	Organization Sciences	Org. Behavior, Org. Theory, Org. Science, Org. Psychology, Org. Development, and Org. Learning.	122 (10%)	200	Table 12
5.	Decision Sciences	Decision Science, Decision Support Systems, Operations Management, Operations Research, Decision Theory, and Optimization.	101 (7.5%)	148	Table 13
6.	IS specialty fields[22]	IS Strategy, IS Development, IS Planning, IS Project Management, IS Management, International dimensions of IS, Global IS, and Management of Technology.	97 (7.5%)	164	n/a [23]
7.	Other	Other, education, philosophy, ethics, informatics, information studies, health, and health informatics.	79 (6%)	112	n/a [24]
8.	Economics	Economics, Information Economics, and Evolutionary.	78 (6%)	124	Table 14
9.	E-commerce	E-commerce, E-business, M-commerce, E-commerce Strategies, and Electronic Markets.	60 (5%)	95	Table 15
10.	HCI	HCI, CSCW, Usability, End-user computing, Human Factors, and Cognitive Psychology.	36 (3%)	51	Table 16
11.	Accounting	Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Auditing, Management Accounting.	15 (1%)	24	Table 17

[22] These are support disciplines that are variations of the main IS field. For example, IS strategy typically involves a variation of the strategy field that focuses on IS.
[23] Rankings of these journals are virtually the same as the overall IS field, with *MISQ* and *ISR* being the most important (109 responses).
[24] The "other" category has too many unrelated sub-disciplines for its journal list to be meaningful.

Table 8. Top Computer Science Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=193)**	**Weight**
1.	*Communications of the ACM (CACM)*	28	48
2.	*IEEE Transactions journals (IEEET)*	23	35
3.	*ACM Transactions journals (ACMT)*	16	24
4.	*IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering (IEEETSE)*	11	19
5.	*ACM Transactions on Database Systems (ACMTODS)*	9	17
6.	*IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering (IEEETKDE)*	6	9
7.	*IEEE Computer (IEEEC)*	4	7
	Other journals	96	n/a[25]

Table 9. Top Business Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=221)**	**Weight**
1.	*Academy of Management Journal (AMJ)*	43	67
2.	*Management Science (MS)*	27	40
3.	*Academy of Management Review (AMR)*	19	29
4.	*Administrative Science Quarterly (ASQ)*	14	23
5.	*Harvard Business Review (HBR)*	9	16
6.	*Strategic Management Journal*	9	14
7.	*Organization Science (OS)*	10	13
8.	*Journal of Marketing*	6	10
9.	*Sloan Management Review (SMR)*	5	8
	Other journals	79	n/a

Table 10. Top Behavioral Science Journals for IS researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=81)**	**Weight**
1.	*Journal of Applied Psychology (JAP)*	11	20
2.	*Organization Science (OS)*	5	9
3.	*Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Process (OBHDP)*	5	7
4.	*MIS Quarterly (MISQ)*	4	7
5.	*Academy of Management Journal (AMJ)*	3	5
6.	*Journal of Psychology*	2	4
	Other journals	51	n/a

[25] These rankings avoid weighting “other journals” as these journals are multiple journals grouped together that have the lowest separate weightings of the ranked journals, in a given support discipline.

Table 11. Top Organization Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=127)**	**Weight**
1.	*Organization Science (OS)*	34	57
2.	*Administrative Science Quarterly (ASQ)*	20	29
3.	*Academy of Management Journal (AMJ)*	18	28
4.	*Academy of Management Review (AMR)*	13	18
5.	*Management Science (MS)*	4	8
6.	*Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Process (OBHDP)*	3	6
	Other journals	35	n/a

Table 12. Top Decision Science Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=74)**	**Weight**
1.	*Management Science (MS)*	13	24
2.	*Decision Support Systems (DSS)*	10	19
3.	*Decision Sciences (DSCI)*	10	17
4.	*Operations Research (OR)*	8	11
5.	*Journal on Computing (JOC)*	4	7
	Other journals	29	n/a

Table 13. Top Economics Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=75)**	**Weight**
1.	*American Economic Review (AER)*	14	26
2.	*Management Science (MS)*	13	24
3.	*Information Systems Research (ISR)*	11	16
4.	*Decision Support Systems (DSS)*	7	9
5.	*Rand Journal of Economics*	3	3
6.	*Journal of Economic Theory*	2	3
	Other journals	25	n/a

Table 14. Top e-Commerce Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=56)**	**Weight**
1.	*International Journal of Electronic Commerce (IJEC)*	12	22
2.	*MIS Quarterly (MISQ)*	5	9
3.	*Electronic Markets Journal (EM)*	5	7
4.	*Journal of Management Information Systems (JMIS)*	5	6
5.	*Information Systems Research (ISR)*	4	6
6.	*Management Science (MS)*	4	6
	Other journals	21	n/a

Table 15. Top HCI Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=21)**	**Weight**
1.	*Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)*	6	10
2.	*ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (ACMTOCHI)*	3	5
3.	*Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)*	3	5
4.	*International Journal of Human Computer Studies (IJHCS)*	2	3
5.	*International Journal of Human Computer Interaction (IJHCI)*	1	1
6.	*Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication (JCMC)*	1	1
	Other journals	5	n/a

Table 16. Top Accounting Journals for IS Researchers			
Rank	**Journal**	**N (total=12)**	**Weight**
1.	*Journal of Information Systems (JIS)*	2	4
2.	*Accounting Review*	2	3
3.	*Journal of Accounting Research (JAR)*	1	2
4.	*Accounting Horizons*	1	1
	Other journals	6	n/a

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APPENDIX I: instrument questions

Note: The survey was conducted on a temporary web site. The following is the content of the survey used for this study without the web formatting:

PLEASE READ: This survey is an important source of data for the international IS research/teaching community. Thus, please read the questions carefully and adhere to the following rules:

(1) All questions are optional and all responses are anonymous; however, please be accurate in the questions you respond to.
(2) Complete the survey only once -- multiple postings will be disregarded.
(3) For purposes of this survey, you should consider "IS" (Information Systems) to be equivalent to the disciplines of "MIS" (Mgmt. IS), "CIS" (Computer IS), "ISM" (IS Mgmt.), etc.
(4) If you do not know an answer to a question or do not feel comfortable answering a question, leave it blank".
(5) When you have responded to all questions, simply press the "SUBMIT" button at the bottom of the form.
(6) Email comments, problems, or questions to: Paul Benjamin Lowry

Disclaimers:

(1) Submission of data to this survey indicates your voluntary release and participation.
(2) This research is for academic, non-commercial purposes ONLY. Data will not be resold or used for non-academic purposes.
(3) This research is fully sponsored and supported by Brigham Young University's Rollins E-business Center and the Department of Accounting and Information Systems. No commercial, government, or grant entities are involved in any way.
(4) Participating individuals in this research will not be identified, and all individual-level data is considered strictly confidential.
(5) Preliminary, summary results will be widely distributed via the web, after the data has been processed. However, detailed analyses and interpretation will NOT be released until after an appropriate peer-reviewed publication process is conducted. These steps will help ensure the data benefits our IS community yet is not abused or grossly misinterpreted.

Demographics[26]

Country region: {drop-down response}[27]
Your primary discipline: ______________
Current position (or closest equivalent): {drop-down response}[28]
Highest degree offered at your university: {drop-down response}[29]
Highest IS/MIS/CIS degree offered at your university: {drop-down response}[30]
Subscribed to ISWorld listserv? {yes/no}
Your highest degree: {drop-down response}[31]
Tenure status: {drop-down response)[32]
Gender: {n/a, male, female}
Primary ethnic background: {drop-down response}[33]

Year highest degree earned: ______

Major field for highest degree earned: ______

Minor field for highest degree earned: ______

Years academic work experience: ______

Years non-academic work experience: ______

Rankings:

Note: All numbered responses in this section should be in rank order where #1 is the best, #2 is the next best...

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[26] Additional demographic data was gathered on career aspects of IS researchers, which is not used for this study.
[27] Drop-down list included: N/A or not sure, 1 Africa, 2 Australia / New Zealand, 3 Asia / Pacific Rim, 4 Central America, 5 Europe, 6 India, 7 Middle East, 8 North America: Mexico, 9 North America: US/Canada, 10 South America, 11 Other. Note: North America was split into Mexico and US/Canada to be able to reflect economic and cultural differences.
[28] Drop-down list included: N/A, 1 Full professor, 2 Associate professor, 3 Assistant professor, 4 Adjunct / part-time professor, 5 Visiting professor, 6 Instructor / lecturer, 7 Administrator, 8 Researcher, 9 Graduate student / assistant, 10 other.
[29] Drop-down list included: N/A or not sure, 1 Highest degree is doctoral, 2 Highest degree is master's, 3 Highest degree is bachelor's, 4 Highest degree is associate's
[30] Drop-down list included: N/A or not sure, 1 Highest degree is doctoral, 2 Highest degree is master's, 3 Highest degree is bachelor's, 4 Highest degree is associate's, 5 Only an undergraduate minor, 6 Other
[31] Drop-down list included: N/A, 1 Doctoral, 2 Doctoral (ABD), 3 Master's, 4 Undergraduate
[32] Drop-down list included: N/A, 1 On tenure track, 2 Tenure achieved, 3 Non-tenured position, 4 Doesn't apply at my school
[33] Drop-down list included: N/A or not sure, African, Asian, European (Caucasian), Hispanic (non-Caucasian), Indian (India), Middle Eastern, Pacific-Islander, and Other. In retrospect, it may have been more helpful to also have included the term, Latino, with the Hispanic designation.

Top 4 research journals: 1. ________ 2. ________ 3. ________ 4. ________

Top 2 reference disciplines or subfields or research communities you use for research: 1. ________ 2. ________

Top 2 journals for research with #1 reference discipline / subfield / research community: 1. ________ 2. ________

Top 2 practitioner (industry) journals: 1. ________ 2. ________

Top 2 journals (practitioner or research) that you read the most: 1. ________ 2. ________

Appendix II: IS Journals List

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
Accounting Horizons	http://www.newslettersonline.com/user/user.fas/s=604/fp=3/tp=44?T=open_non_issue,2718,3&P=non_issue	American Accounting Association	1987 - present
The Accounting Review	http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/aaa/pubs/HorizonsEditorTrans.htm	American Accounting Association	1926 - present
ACMCS (ACM Computing Surveys)	http://www.acm.org/surveys/	Association for Computing Machinery	Mar 1969 - present
ACMSIG (various ACM SIG publications)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=sig&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	depends on publication
ACMT (various ACM Transactions)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	depends on publication
ACMTCS (ACM Transactions on Computer Systems)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&idx=J774&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	Feb 1983 - present
ACMTOCHI (ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&idx=J756&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	Mar 1984 - present
ACMTODS (ACM Transactions on Database Systems)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&idx=J777&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	Mar 1976 - present
ACMTOIS (ACM Transactions on IS)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&idx=J779&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	Jan 1983 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
ACMTSE (ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology)	http://portal.acm.org/browse_dl.cfm?linked=1&part=transaction&idx=J790&coll=portal&dl=ACM&CFID=10558587&CFTOKEN=54933117	Association for Computing Machinery	Jan 1992 - present
AER (American Economic Review)	http://www.aeaweb.org/aer/	American Economic Association	1911 - present
AI (Artificial Intelligence)	http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/artint	Elsevier	1970 - present
AMIT (Accounting, Management, & IT) {Name Changed to Information & Organization in 2001}	http://www.elsevier.com/inca/publications/store/9/6/4/	Elsevier	1995 - present (new name)
AMJ (Academy of Management Journal) {was The journal of the Academy of Management from 1957-1962}	http://aom.pace.edu/amjnew/	Academy of Management	1957 - present
AMR (Academy of Management Review)	http://aom.pace.edu/AMR/	Academy of Management	1976 - present
angelaki	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/routledge/0969725X.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1993 - present
Annals of Mathematics and AI	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1012-2443	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1991 - present
ASQ (Administrative Science Quarterly)	http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/ASQ/asq.html	Cornell University	1965 - present
British Journal of Sociology	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/routledge/00071315.html	London School of Economics	1951 - present
Business 2.0	http://www.business2.com/	Business 2.0 Media Inc.	1998 - present
Business Communication Quarterly	http://bcq.theabc.org/	Association for Business Communication	1937 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
CACM (Communications of the ACM)	http://www.acm.org/cacm/	Association for Computing Machinery	1957 - present
CAIS (Communications of the AIS)	http://cais.isworld.org/	Association for Information Systems	1999 - present
CIO (CIO Magazine)	http://www.cio.com/	CXO Media Inc.	1994 - present
CJ (Computer Journal)	http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/list/comjnl/	Oxford University Press	1958 - present
CMR (California Management Review)	http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/News/cmr/	Haas School of Business - UC Berkeley	1958 - present
Cognitive Science	http://www.elsevier.com/gej-ng/10/15/15/show/Products/COGSCI/access_online.htt	Elsevier / Cognitive Sclence Society	1976 - present
Communication Monographs	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/03637751.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1933 - present
Communication Research	http://www.sagepub.co.uk/frame.html?http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/j0078.html	Sage Publications	1973 - present
Computational Economics	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0927-7099	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1992 - present
ComputerWorld	http://www.computerworld.com/	International Data Group	1967 - present
CSCW (Computer Supported Cooperative Work)	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0925-9724	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1990 - present
DATABASE (The DATA BASE for Advances in IS)	http://www.cis.gsu.edu/~dbase/	ACM SIGMIS	1969 - present
Database	http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?jid=DBS&db=afh	Online Inc.	1978 - 1999
Datamation	online version continues at http://itmanagement.earthweb.com/	Jupitermedia Corporation	1958 - 1998

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
DM Review	http://www.dmreview.com/	The Thomson Corporation and DM Review	? - present
Dr Dobb's (Dr. Dobb's Journal)	http://www.ddj.com/	CMP Media	1975 - present
DSCI (Decision Sciences)	http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?RQT=317&SK=2&ScQ=000017059|*&StPt=1&FC=40&Branch=1&INT=0&SelLanguage=0&TS=1054258084	American Institute for Decision Sciences	1969 - present
DSS (Decision Support Systems)	http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/sae/orms/dss/menu.htm	Elsevier	1991 - present
Economics of Innovation and New Technology	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10438599.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1991 - present
Economist	http://economist.com/	The Economist Newspaper Limited	1975 - present
JECR (Journal of Electronic Commerce Research)	http://www.csulb.edu/web/journals/jecr/a_j.htm	California State University Long Beach	2000 - present
EJIS (European Journal of IS)	http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ejis/	Palgrave Macmillan	1992 - present
EJOR (European Journal of OR)	http://www.elsevier.nl/homepage/sae/orms/eor/menu.htm	Elsevier	1855 - present
EM (Electronic Markets Journal)	http://www.electronicmarkets.org/	Taylor & Francis Group	1991 - present
eWeek	http://www.eweek.com/	Ziff Davis Media Inc	1983 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
GDN (Group Decision and Negotiation)	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0926-2644	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1997 - present
HBR (Harvard Business Review)	http://harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu/b02/en/hbr/hbr_home.jhtml	Harvard Business School Publishing	1922 - present
HCI (Human-Computer Interaction)	http://hci-journal.com/	Lawrence Erlbaum	1985 - present
Human Communication Research	http://hcr.oupjournals.org/	Oxford University Press	1974 - present
I&M (Information and Management)	http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/inca/505553	Elsevier	1977 - present
I&O (Information and Organization) {was Accounting, Management, & IT from 1995-2000}	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/14717727	Elsevier	1995 - present
IBM (IBM Systems Journal)	http://www.research.ibm.com/journal/sj/	IBM	1962 - present
IEEEC (IEEE Computer)	http://www.computer.org/computer/	IEEE Computer Society	1968 - present
IEEES (IEEE Software)	http://www.computer.org/software/	IEEE Computer Society	1983 - present
IEEET (various IEEE Transactions)	http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pubs/transactions/index.html	IEEE Computer Society	depends on publication
IEEETKDE (IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering)	http://computer.org/tkde/	IEEE Computer Society	1989 - present
IEEETPC (IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication)	http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pubs/transactions/tpc.htm	IEEE Professional Communication Society	1958 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
IEEETSE (IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering)	http://www.computer.org/tse/	IEEE Computer Society	1975 - present
IEEETSMC (IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics)	http://www.ieee-smc.org/webpages/publications/index.html	IEEE SMC Society	? - present
IJEC (International Journal of Electronic Commerce)	http://www.gvsu.edu/ssb/ijec/	Seidman School of Business	1996 - present
IJHCI (International Journal of Human Computer Interaction)	https://www.erlbaum.com/shop/tek9.asp?pg=products&specific=1044-7318	Lawrence Erlbaum	1989 - present
IJHCS (International Journal of Human Computer Studies)	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijhcs	Elsevier	1945 - present
IJPR (International Journal of Production Research)	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/00207543.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1962 - present
Industrial Marketing Management	http://www.elsevier.nl/locate/indmarman	Elsevier	1972 - present
Information Strategy	http://www.auerbach-publications.com/ejournals/product_info/product_detail.asp?id=144	Auerbach	? - present
InformationWeek	http://www.informationweek.com/	CMP Media	? - present
InfoWorld	http://www.infoworld.com/	InfoWorld Media Group	? - present
INFSJ (Informing Science Journal)	http://informingscience.org/	Informing Science Institute	1998 - present
Interfaces (the Interfaces journal by INFORMS)	http://www.interfaces.smeal.psu.edu/	Informs	1970 - present
Internet Research	http://lucia.emeraldinsight.com/vl=17968769/cl=51/nw=1/rpsv/intr.htm	Emerald	1991 - present
IP&M (Information Processing and Management)	http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/2/4/4/	Elsevier	1963 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
IRMJ (Information Ressources Management Journal)	http://www.idea-group.com/journals/details.asp?id=199	Idea Group Publishing	1988 - present
ISJ (Information Systems Journal)	http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journals/isj/	Blackwell Publishing	1991 - present
ISOC (Information Society)	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/01972243.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1985 - present
ISR (Information Systems Research)	http://isr.katz.pitt.edu/	INFORMS	1990 - present
ISYS (Information Systems)	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/03064379	Elsevier	1975 - present
IT&P (Information Technology and People)	http://lucia.emeraldinsight.com/vl=18358521/cl=38/nw=1/rpsv/journals/itp/jourinfo.htm	Emerald	1985 - present
JACM (Journal of the ACM)	http://www.acm.org/jacm/	Association for Computing Machinery	1954 - 1998
JAIS (Journal of the AIS)	http://jais.aisnet.org/	Association for Information Systems	2000 - present
JAP (Journal of Applied Psychology)	http://jap.physiology.org/	American Physiological Society	1996 - present
JAR (Journal of Accounting Research)	http://gsbwww.uchicago.edu/research/journals/jar/	Blackwell Publishing	1963 - present
JCIS (Journal of CIS)	http://www.fgcu.edu/rboggs/jcis/index.asp	International Association of Computer Information Systems	1992 - present
JCMC (Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication)	http://www.ascusc.org/jcmc/	Annenberg School for Communication	1995 - present
JCSS (Journal of Computer and System Science)	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/00220000	Elsevier	1938 - present
JDM (Journal of Database Management)	http://www.idea-group.com/journals/details.asp?id=198	Idea Group Publishing	1990 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
JEUC (Journal of End User Computing)	http://www.idea-group.com/journals/details.asp?id=130	Idea Group Publishing	1988 - present
IJIM (International Journal of Information Management)	http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/3/0/4/3/4/index.htt	Elsevier	1981 - present
JIER (Journal of Informatics Education and Research)	http://www.iaim.org/jier/index.html	International Academy for IM	1999 – present
JIS (Journal of Information Systems)	http://aaa-is.byu.edu/publications/jis/default.asp	American Accounting Association	1987 - present
JISCI (Journal of Information Science)	http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?jid=INJ&db=buh	Cambridge Scientific Abstracts	1975 - present
JISE (Journal of Information Systems Education)	http://gise.org/JISE/	Informing Science Institute	1988 - present
JISM (Journal of Information Systems Management)	n/a		
JIT (Journal of IT)	http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/routledge/02683962.html	Taylor & Francis Group	1986 - present
JITM (JIT Management)	http://www.uky.edu/~lederer/jitm.html	Maximilian Press	1989 - present
JMIS (Journal of MIS)	http://jmis.bentley.edu/	Bentley College*	1984 - present
JOC (Journal on Computing)	http://joc.pubs.informs.org/	Informs	1989 - present
JOCEC (Journal of Organizational Computing and Electronic Commerce)	http://cism.bus.utexas.edu/CISM/JOC/jocec.html	Ablex Pub. Corp	1991 - present
Journal of Applied Social Psychology	http://www.bellpub.com/jasp/	Bellwether Publishing	1971 - present
Journal of Communication	http://joc.oupjournals.org/	International Communication Association	1950 - present
Journal of Documentation	http://www.aslib.co.uk/jdoc/	ASLIB IMI*	1945 - 2001

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
Journal of Econometrics	http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/sae/econworld/econbase/econom/frame.htm	Elsevier	1973 - present
Journal of Economic Perspectives	http://www.aeaweb.org/jep/	American Economic Association	1987 - present
Journal of Empirical Software Engineering	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1382-3256	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1996 - present
Journal of Marketing	http://www.marketingpower.com/live/content.php?Item_ID=1053	American Marketing Association	1936 - present
Journal of Marketing Research	http://www.marketingpower.com/live/content.php?Item_ID=1054	American Marketing Association	1963 - present
Journal of Marketing Science	http://bear.cba.ufl.edu/centers/MKS/index.asp	INFORMS	1982 - present
Journal of Personality and Social Psychology	http://www.apa.org/journals/psp.html	American Psychological Association	1921 - present
Journal of Psychology	http://www.heldref.org/html/jrl.html	Heldref Publications	?
JSIS (Journal of Strategic Information Systems)	http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/homepage/sae/orms/strinf/menu.htm	Elsevier	1992 - present
JSM (Journal of Systems Management)	n/a		1992 - 1996
Machine Learning	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0885-6125	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1986 - present
Management Communication Quarterly	http://www.sagepub.co.uk/frame.html?http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/j0025.html	Sage Publications	1987 - present
Manufacturing and Service Operations Management	http://www.msom.org/	Informs	1999 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
MISQ (MIS Quarterly)	http://misq.org/	Management Information Systems Research Center (MISRC) of the University of Minnesota	1977 - present
MISQE (MISQ Executive)	http://www.misqe.org/jsp/index.jsp	Society of Information Management	2002 - present
MS (Management Science)	http://mansci.pubs.informs.org/	INFORMS	1955 - present
OBHDP (Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Process)	http://www.elsevier.com/locate/issn/0749-5978	Elsevier	1950 - present
Omega	http://www.elsevier.nl/homepage/sae/orms/omega/menu.htm	Elsevier	1973 - present
OR (Operations Research)	http://or.pubs.informs.org/	Informs	1951 - present
OS (Organization Science)	http://web.gsm.uci.edu/orgsci/	Informs	1990 - present
Psychological Bulletin	http://www.apa.org/journals/bul.html	American Physiological Association	1874 - present
Quarterly Journal of Electronic Commerce	http://www.qjec.org/	Information Age Publishing	2003 - present
Rand Journal of Economics	http://www.rje.org/	RAND	1970 - present
SMR (Sloan Management Review)	http://smr.mit.edu/	Sloan Business School	1958 - present
Social Studies of Science	http://www.sagepub.co.uk/frame.html?http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/details/j0005.html	Sage Publications	1961 - present
Sociological Review	http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0038-0261	Blackwell Publishing	1952 - present

Journal Name	URL	Publisher	Dates
SP&E (Software Practice and Experience)	http://www.interscience.wiley.com/jpages/0038-0644/	Wiley Interscience	1960 - present
Strategic Management Journal	http://www.interscience.wiley.com/jpages/0143-2095/	Wiley Interscience	1979 - present
Theory & Society	http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/0304-2421/current	Kluwer Academic Publishers	1961 - present
WIRT (Wirtschaftsinformatik)	http://www.wirtschaftsinformatik.de/		1959 - present

Appendix III: Journal rankings by position and tenure status

Rank	Assistant Professors		Associate Professors		Full Professors		Untenured professors (all levels)		Tenured professors (all levels)	
	journal	sum	journal	sum	journal	sum	journal	sum	journal	sum
1	*MISQ*	768	*MISQ*	514	*MISQ*	567	*MISQ*	844	*MISQ*	928
2	*ISR*	642	*ISR*	420	*ISR*	484	*ISR*	707	*ISR*	789
3	*JMIS*	241	*JMIS*	143	*JMIS*	187	*JMIS*	263	*MS*	285
4	*MS*	220	*MS*	135	*MS*	170	*MS*	232	*JMIS*	284
5	*CACM*	155	*CACM*	119	*CACM*	105	*CACM*	170	*CACM*	185
6	*DSCI*	56	*DSS*	34	*DSS*	56	*DSCI*	62	*DSS*	76
7	*DSS*	29	*IEEET*	28	*DSCI*	42	*DSS*	50	*DSCI*	58
8	*IEEET*	27	*EJIS*	25	*IEEET*	28	*I&M*	30	*IEEET*	53
9	*OS*	25	*ISJ*	22	*JAIS*	26	*JAIS*	25	*ACMT*	32
10	*ACMT*	20	*DSCI*	21	*I&M*	25	*OS*	25	*JAIS*	31
11	*I&M*	20	*I&M*	21	*ACMT*	17	*IEEET*	23	*I&M*	29
12	*JAIS*	20	*ACMT*	16	*WIRT*	17	*ACMT*	22	*EJIS*	26
13	*ISJ*	15	*OS*	13	*JSIS*	15	*EJIS*	19	*OS*	21
14	*JOC*	15	*JIS*	10	*EJIS*	14	*ISJ*	18	*ISJ*	19
15	*HBR*	13	*HBR*	8	*OR*	13	*JOC*	15	*JSIS*	17
16	*ACMTOCHI*	12	*JAIS*	8	*Information Systems*	12	*OR*	14	*OR*	15
17	*OR*	12	*IT&P*	7	*JOC*	12	*ACMTOCHI*	13	*JOC*	14
18	*EJIS*	10	*JSIS*	7	*HBR*	10	*HBR*	11	*DATABASE*	13
19	*ACMTODS*	9	*MISQE*	7	*OS*	10	*JCIS*	11	*HBR*	13
20	*I&O*	9	*JITM*	6	*DATABASE*	8	*ACMTODS*	9	*Information Systems*	13
21	*IEEETSE*	9	*ACMTIT*	5	*IEEEC*	8	*I&O*	9	*WIRT*	13
22	*HCI*	8	*Information Systems*	5	*ISJ*	8	*IEEEC*	9	*IEEES*	10
23	*JCIS*	8	*OR*	5	*JCIS*	8	*IJEC*	8	*JIS*	10
24	*JSIS*	8	*ACMTOIS*	4	*IEEES*	7	*JIS*	8	*IEEEC*	8
25	*IEEEC*	7	*IEEETSE*	4	*EJOR*	6	*HCI*	7	*JACM*	8

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