Foreword to LEO Article

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As part of the reorganization of the JAIS Journal in 2002 the newly formed editorial team has decided to open the pages of the JAIS journal to the recipients of the Leo award- the most distinguished award of AIS. The LEO Award was established in 1999 by the Council of the Association for Information Systems and the Executive Committee of the International Conference on Information Systems. Named after one of the world's first commercial applications of computing (The Lyons Electronic Office), the purpose of the LEO Award is to recognize truly outstanding individuals in the Information Systems community, both academics and practitioners, who have made exceptional contributions to research in and/or the practice of Information Systems. They are truly outstanding scholars or practitioners who have made exceptional global contributions in the field of Information Systems.

So far the only recognition and value of the Leo Award for its recipient has been the ceremony during the ICIS to hand out the award. But as editors of JAIS journal we wanted to move now this further by inviting each living Leo award recipient to write an article - the Leo article- for the JAIS journal. We hoped that the papers would be critical, reflective and in some occasions polemical. The articles are expected to be of normal academic length and we have asked the recipients to address important intellectual challenges related to the evolution of IS field, or critical evaluations and assessments of their research that lead to the most significant research outcomes in their careers. We have purposefully left the topic and the length of the article to be decided by each Leo award recipient.

In this issue we will publish the first Leo article by Enid Mumford titled "**Information Systems Research and the Quest for Certainty**". More Leo articles will follow in the coming year so that we expect to publish one such article every six months until a steady state is achieved, and we will publish one to two such articles per year by the former year's recipients.

Enid is an emeritus Professor of Manchester University, and she has made fundamental contributions to our understanding of development processes for information systems. She is the recognized world leader in the application of socio-technical concepts to

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information systems design and development. In her paper Enid discusses the relationships between our research, and our endemic will to certainty. The paper makes an interesting claim that fits with the mission of a Leo paper: how should we approach the dichotomy of uncertainty/ certainty both in our theoretical discourse, and how we can view information systems and their development both as a complexity / uncertainty amplifying and decreasing factor. This view-point can provide a basis for compelling discussions in the future how we should theorize and analyze IT impact.