

Editorial

We wish to express a warm welcome to authors, readers, and subscribers to *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*. As the name indicates this journal is about information systems, and it is designed to present high quality results from the Scandinavian research community.

Over the years we have seen several remarkable contributions from Scandinavia. Börje Langefors' Theoretical Analysis of Information Systems and the more practically oriented ISAC method have served as a prototypical example of how to improve research and development. Kristen Nygaard's cooperation with trade unions, the education of numerous shop stewards, and the development of special data agreements initiated many similar activities in Scandinavia and elsewhere, and this has led to new and controversial views of the social and political dimensions of information systems.

We receive many international research colleagues wanting to study what is sometimes referred to as The Scandinavian Tradition, and in international journals and books special attention is often drawn to Scandinavian research activities. Being members of the Scandinavian research community we know that there is no such thing as a special Scandinavian tradition or approach. Like all other places people disagree, new systems malfunction, systems development projects are stopped, and a number of different and even competing research traditions are developed. The point is rather that the general political and cultural setting is different from most other places in the world. Already for many years societal, political, organizational and individual issues have been on the agenda when developing new information systems. Information technology have been discussed and negotiated *in context* both at the workplace, on the political scene and within research and educational institutions. We believe that Scandinavian information systems research is worthwhile studying primarily because of this difference in setting.

We have created the journal with the purpose of opening a window from the Scandinavian research community to information systems researchers in the rest of the world. All contributions will represent, reflect upon or relate to Scandinavian information systems research. The journal will, at least at the outset, be annual. Each year in August there is a three day informal seminar where the Scandinavian information systems research community meet. One of the traditions of this seminar is that every participant is required to contribute with a paper, and in this way the seminar is an indicator of current trends in Scandinavian information systems research. It will be the policy of this journal to select the contributions for the next volume in August partly based on the papers presented at the annual seminar. We also encourage our readers to submit papers to the *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, and in addition we will invite selected persons to present their latest research in the journal.

It is our goal to present research contributions of high, international quality. The journal is edited by four persons representing the Scandinavian countries, but

many other Scandinavian and international researchers participate in refereeing potential contributions. This years eight contributions were selected among forty candidates, and each of them were refereed by at least three persons.

In summary: *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems* is an annual research journal presenting or reflecting upon Scandinavian information systems research. It is our goal to present research contributions of high, international quality from various research traditions. It is our hope, that the existence of this journal over the years will improve the quality of research on information systems, not only in Scandinavia, and that it will stimulate international cooperation between Scandinavian researchers and researchers from the rest of the world.

With this in mind, we once again welcome everyone to participate in this effort.

*Jens Kaasbøll,
Lars Mathiassen,
Markku Nurminen, and
Agneta Olerup.*