

## EDITORIAL

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The purpose of the journal is to publish high quality articles from the Nordic information systems research community where 'information systems' is to be understood in the broadest sense possible. It is never easy to explain to information systems researchers outside the Nordic countries what actually constitutes our community because of its diversity in research methods and variety of research topics. This issue of the journal contains five research articles which together show some of the variety in the research carried out within the Nordic information systems community.

Helena Karsten's article examines the different conceptions of a groupware tool amongst cooperating users. The particular tool in the study is Lotus Notes. Karsten interviewed the users of Notes and used structuration theory to make sense of the interviews.

The article by Peter Carstensen, Carsten Sørensen & Tuomo Tuikka reports from an empirical study of software developers talking about bugs in their software. The article shows that software testing is a collaborative activity which may benefit considerably from

being better coordinated and computer supported.

Based on an empirical study, and by reflecting on Barry Boehm's similar study, Lars Mathiassen, Thomas Sewaldt & Jan Stage have developed, what they call, the The Principle of Limited Reduction, providing insight into the usefulness of a mixed approach of prototyping and specifying in software development projects.

Gro Bjerknes & Tone Bratteteig in their article contribute to the ongoing discussion within the community about the history of the Scandinavian approaches and what their prospects are. This paper may be seen as a continuation and another view on the Bansler-Kraft-Kyng-debate in issue 6(1) of the journal.

Arild Jansen discusses the diffusion of IT in rural areas of the northern part of Norway. The effects of strategies, policies and an IT programme is evaluated.

In the debate section, Erik Stolterman invites us to reflect on the presuppositions and fundamental objectives of our discipline. Referring to the comments by Hakken and Winner in the last issue, 6(2), November 1994, Stolterman argues against a narrowing of our research into

dealing only with supporting systems designers in their practice and with helping users get what they need. Instead, Stolterman wants us to engage in, what he calls, “critical technology studies”, thereby actively contributing to the shaping of a “good information society”.

Lastly, an on-line electronic publishing service of abstracts is available through World Wide Web by URL at “<http://www.iesd.auc.dk/general/IS/SJIS>”. This service also provides information on how to subscribe and on the formats to be followed by authors.

All the best for the Summer.