

EDITORIAL

The Journal of Law and Information Science was created in response to the increasing number of social and legal questions arising out of new scientific and technological developments in information science. This is the first issue in our relaunch of the Journal and only the second issue produced at the University of Tasmania. The Journal of Law and Information Science was established by Professor Roger Brown of the University of Technology, Sydney who brought the Journal to Tasmania upon his appointment as Professor in the Faculty of Law. We hereby acknowledge the earlier endeavours of Professor Brown and hope to carry on the high quality of writing which marked earlier editions of the Journal.

I am also happy to report that our distinguished Editorial Board members have agreed to continue in that capacity. We also would like to welcome several new members to the Board:

Professor Alan Tyree, Landerer Professor of Law, University of Sydney

Professor Arthur Sale, Department of Computer Science, University of Tasmania

Dr Chris Keen, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science, University of Tasmania

Mr Dave Brown, Lecturer in Law, University of Melbourne

Ms Linda Dawson, Lecturer in Computer Science, University of Tasmania

Dr Stefan Petrow, Senior Law Librarian, University of Tasmania

Mr Lynden Griggs, Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania

Ms Anne Fitzgerald, Lecturer in Law, University of Tasmania

A number of editorial changes have been introduced with this relaunch of the Journal. First, we will attempt to make most issues largely, though not exclusively, thematic. It is the view of our Editorial Board that there is significant merit in developing under the umbrella of one theme a number of different perspectives. Such an approach will make specific Journal issues of great interest to specialised groups, but also enable the more general reader to 'get a feel' for the cutting edge issues of a specific topic, such as computer contracts, criminal law and the computer etc. Secondly, where possible, we also hope to foster the policy of circulating the lead articles amongst the authors for possible comment on one another's papers. Accordingly, in the next issue readers will enjoy the reply to Bob Moles' concerns submitted by John Zeleznikow. Thirdly, in keeping with the rapid growth of developments in the area of law and information science, we aim to make every effort to publish two issues of the Journal per year.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and the law is the theme of this relaunch issue. Exploring a broad spectrum of AI issues, the articles include Bob Moles' probing analysis of the jurisprudential limits of AI, and John Zeleznikow's report of intelligent legal tools produced as part of the IKBALS Project in the Database Research Laboratory at La Trobe University in Melbourne. In addition, Andrzej Kowalski relates his experiences in teaching Australia's first course on 'Legal Reasoning, Expert Systems and Artificial Intelligence'. Finally, lawyers and sociologists, especially, will be interested in Richard Volpato's insightful article on 'Legal Professionals and Informatics' which explores how legal professionals can use data available through information technology to bring new insights and perspectives to their professional practice. In a brief note, Dr Joseph Fulda considers the utilisation of artificial intelligence as a substitute for the jury system. Finally, Dave Brown provides a detailed commentary on the Third International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the Law held at Oxford in June 1991.

In addition to the articles, this edition reviews four important new books: STATISTICS FOR LAWYERS, by Michael Finkelstein and Bruce Levin, *Ways of Thinking - The Limits of Rational Thought and Artificial Intelligence* by László Méró, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: DESIGN AND APPLICATIONS by Nancy D. Lane and Margaret E. Chisholm (editors), and LAW, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE by Ajit Narayanan and Mervyn Bennun (editors).

As with any production, many people have worked quietly and competently behind the scenes to make this edition possible. I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work, encouragement and advice from colleagues Lynden Griggs and Stefan Petrow, the marketing efforts of Dave Brown, University of Melbourne, the technical work of Shannaugh Dorsett in setting up our subscriber data base, the secretarial skills of Moya Sue and Sue Butterworth and of course, the support of our Law School Department Head, Professor Don Chalmers and Dean, Dr Martin Tsamenyi.

Finally, we would like to extend a special thank you to Wendy London and Ruth Baker, of the Society for Computers & Law and for advertising our relaunch in *Computers and Law* and agreeing to publish abstracts of leading articles.

E.E.C.