



President's Letter



Uday Murthy,
University of South
Florida

Dear IS section members,

I hope your summer is going well. The 2011-12 year is flying by. We had a great midyear meeting in Scottsdale in January. Attendance was at the high end of what we have seen at midyear meetings over the last few years. It was particularly great to be in Scottsdale, which is where the first few AIS research symposia were held by Steve Sutton and Ken Harmon, as many of us "old timers" remember.

At the beginning of my term as section President, I articulated a number of concerns regarding the present and future of the field of AIS. As I noted, the production of AIS research has remained fairly static over the last several years. It is no secret that editors of the various AIS related journals are not being flooded with more high quality AIS research articles than they can publish. A related concern is regarding the production of new AIS PhDs. There are not very many doctoral programs producing AIS trained faculty. A recent trend is that of mainstream IS faculty moving into AIS, at least in the teaching aspect. Only time will tell whether this trend continues and whether it is good for the field of AIS.

I also noted the pressure at most research-intensive universities to publish in the "Top 6" accounting journals. This pressure has caused many of the top researchers in our section to pursue projects and partnerships that are aimed at these top journals rather than at journals such as *Journal of Information Systems*, *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*, and *Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting*. We have seen a number of AIS papers appear in the Top 6 journals in recent years, and that is a good thing. As Jim Hunton and others have voiced, however, in addition to the requisite high standards for research rigor at these journals, the "A" in AIS must be prominent and salient. Our research must speak to our colleagues in at least one of our sister sub-disciplines in accounting: auditing, managerial accounting, financial accounting, forensic accounting, governmental accounting, and possibly even tax. AIS research has a more natural fit into one of the following three areas: auditing, managerial accounting, and financial accounting. For AIS to become more accepted and embraced by our colleagues, I submit to you that we must keep the "A" front and center in our choice of projects. While I do not discount the potential contribution of a project that is more IS inclined, with no "A" aspect in the project, I see little value of such a project in furthering the field of AIS.

Where this discussion leads naturally is to the thorny issue of the definition of accounting information systems. What exactly is AIS? To recount the old joke, if you ask five AIS researchers to define AIS you will get seven definitions. At the "state of AIS" panel discussion at the Scottsdale meeting, I had proposed the following "working definition" of AIS:

The field of AIS deals with understanding and improving all aspects of the processing and use of accounting information as enabled by information technology.

Some of the feedback I received after the panel session was that this definition did not explicitly include what arguably is our core strength, i.e., a focus on internal controls and transaction processing systems. My view is that expanding the definition to specify any topic risks alienating some subset of the population of AIS researchers. For the AIS research that you have published and/or are currently working on, ask yourself: "Does the research fit within the boundaries of the above definition of AIS?" I suspect that the definition is broad enough to encompass most of the "usual suspects" in AIS research (decision aids, IT auditing, presentation formats, XBRL, etc.). Yet, the definition is narrow by specifically including the words "accounting" and "information technology" in explicating what constitutes AIS. In my view, it is the coupling of accounting with information systems/technology that distinguishes AIS from any other field. In addition to the "A" connection, our competitive advantage is that we are uniquely placed to address the "IS" aspect of AIS research questions.

My main message here is that we need to collectively "raise our game" by producing more high quality AIS research and by producing more research that is easily recognized by our colleagues as *accounting* information systems research. So, while the concerns I outlined at the beginning of the year persist, it is my hope that many of you will heed my call and engage in more research activity that helps our cause, i.e., to gain respectability for the field of AIS. In somewhat Kennedyesque fashion, I suppose what I'm saying is "...ask what you can do for your section."

I welcome your comments and feedback. Our IS Section hive in AAA Commons is ready and waiting for such feedback (you will find this note there as well). Best wishes for a productive summer and I hope to see you at in Washington, DC at the AAA annual meeting.

Regards,
Uday

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**2013 Information Systems Section Mid-Year Meeting
January 9-12, 2013****President's Letter****2013 IS Mid-Year Meeting****Conference-SIG ASYS****Conference-Microfinance****AIS Research Database****Book Reviews Call****Congratulations!****Meeting Photos**

The 2013 Information Systems Section Midyear meeting and 11th annual AIS New Scholar Consortium will be held January 9-12, 2013 at the Bahia Mar Doubletree, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This joint meeting with the SET section will include a plenary speaker, pre-conference workshops, a panel discussion, research paper sessions, education paper sessions, and interactive short paper sessions. Please visit the IS section website for more details (coming in the future).

The deadline for submission of research and education papers for the conference is **Monday, September 18, 2012**. Research (including pedagogical research) papers should follow the style and submission guidelines of the *Journal of Information Systems (JIS)*. Instructional cases should be in a format similar to that used in *Issues in Accounting Education*.

Papers submitted to the Information Systems section will be reviewed with the intention of identifying promising papers that may be suitable for publication in the *Journal of Information Systems*. The editor of the *Journal of Information Systems* will contact authors of identified papers and invite their submission to the *Journal of Information Systems*.

The best research and education papers will both receive \$500 prizes.

We are moving to a new, improved online submission system. Information on how to submit papers, and on how to volunteer, will be announced at the beginning of August.

New Scholars Consortium

The New Scholars Consortium enables new scholars and Ph.D. students to receive constructive feedback on their research in progress and proposals from successful faculty members in a small group setting. Submissions are now being accepted through September 18, 2012. All stages of research in progress are acceptable. Please direct Word format submissions and questions to: adzuranin@niu.edu (Ann Dzurainin)

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Association for Information Systems SIG ASYS 4th Annual Pre-ICIS Workshop on AIS December 15, 2012

Location: Marriott World Center Resort, Orlando, Florida, USA

Website: <http://sigasys.aisnet.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANEL PROPOSALS

SIG ASYS cordially invites both academics and practitioners from all over the world to present their original research and/or to organize a panel discussion in the field of Accounting Information Systems (AIS). The workshop will focus on a wide range of topics at the intersection of accounting and information systems. The SIG ASYS Workshop encourages interested researchers to present and discuss Accounting Information Systems research in Orlando, Florida just before the start of ICIS 2012.

The workshop is particularly interested in papers that link information and communication technology with accounting or auditing using theories and perspectives from those fields or from fields like psychology, sociology, cognitive science, political science, behavioural science, and economics. High-quality, insightful, and theoretically sound studies of any type (quantitative studies, qualitative studies, action research, survey studies, archival analysis, behavioural/experimental, design science, case studies, surveys, theory development, etc.) are equally encouraged.

AIS provides the mechanisms required to capture and store transactions, to ensure the accuracy, timeliness, and validity of those transactions, to satisfy the organisation's legal and regulatory requirements, and to inform all the stakeholders of the economic status of the organisation. AIS provides the vast majority of the data required for operational, tactical, and strategic decision making. AIS also provide the basis for interorganizational information sharing, for innovative and strategic data initiatives, and for external reporting to various stakeholder groups. Suggested topics include (but are not limited to): systems integration, IT governance, risk assessment and management, value of information systems, information assurance, global AIS, continuous auditing, auditing end user systems, internal audit, COSO, COBIT, AS5, forensic auditing, data mining & business intelligence, querying, ebXML, XBRL, AIS use, data ambiguity, data quality, AIS design, AIS models, the Resource-Event-Agent (REA) model, AIS data models, and enterprise systems.

All submissions must represent original work that has not already been published in a journal or conference proceedings (in complete form – abstract publication is permissible). At least one author for every accepted paper must register for the workshop and be prepared to present his or her paper in person.

Submissions may be of three types: Completed research papers, research-in-progress papers, and panel proposals.

Completed research papers

Papers should conform to *IJAIS* format, which is consistent with American Accounting Association journals and other Elsevier accounting journals. Completed research papers should be carefully blinded, limited to 10,000 words (approximately 30 pages in length), and use the same format as that listed for the *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems (IJAIS)*, at: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/620400/authorinstructions

Research-in-progress papers

Submission of promising research in its formative stages does not require complete analysis of results. Submissions should be in the format of an extended abstract and include the following sections: research objectives and questions, theoretical foundations of the study, research methodology being used, current status of the project, and a description of what the authors propose to present at the conference. Research in progress papers should be limited to approximately 4000 words.

Panel proposals

Panel proposals should include description of the topic and the list of potential panelists. Panel proposals should be at least a one-page and include a general description of the topic, names and affiliations of all panel participants (including their name, affiliation, email, and a one-paragraph bio), a statement to the effect that all participants have made a commitment to serve on the panel (if it is accepted), a brief description of each participant's background and expertise related to the panel topic, and a description of each participant's views on the topic.

The workshop will be held as an all-day meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2012, in Orlando, Florida, prior to the start of ICIS 2012. Participants should plan on arriving the day before for an early start to the meeting. The customary networking dinner will take place after the workshop, on Saturday night (December 15th). There will be a single track to maximise interaction and participation. Workshop participants will be charged a registration fee. All submissions must be in English and will be blind reviewed by at least two peers.

FAST-TRACKING TO IJAIS

One best paper award will be announced at the workshop, and this paper, after meeting the required revisions, will be published in *the International Journal of Accounting Information Systems (IJAIS)* at the author's prerogative. Authors of promising workshop papers will be invited to submit their papers for fast tracking in *IJAIS*.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline:	July 15, 2012
Notification to Authors:	September 1, 2012
Final Papers:	October 1, 2012
Workshop:	December 15, 2012
Networking Dinner:	December 15, 2012

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chair: Georgia Smedley (University of Missouri-Kansas City)

SUBMISSIONS

Paper enquires, submissions, and panel proposals should be sent to: Georgia Smedley at smedleyg@umkc.edu

Important: Please "cc" your submission to Arden Phillips: phillipsar@umkc.edu

Please include "SIGASYS Pre-ICIS Workshop 2012" in the subject header of the email. Please also indicate whether the submission is completed research, research in progress, or a panel proposal.

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Accounting & Microfinance Conference 2012 September/October 2012

Call for Papers

Location: Asheville, NC

Blassys Publishing, Inc. seeks original papers for its Accounting & Microfinance Conference 2012 that will be held in September/October 2012 at Asheville, NC. The paper should describe research work in all areas of microfinance. The purpose of this event is to expand the discourse in microfinance to involve accounting professional and scholars. This serves as a unique niche for coalescing innovative and collaborative inputs between these key groups and the microfinance practitioners, funders, borrowers, researchers, and supporters.

With increased attention and engagement from the accounting groups, there is opportunity to improve the quality of the accounting and reporting standards as well as expand the literature specific to quality on the concept. Ultimately microfinance can continue its mission of helping to expand the scale and scope of financial services available to disadvantaged small businesses around the world. Please join in the excitement by attending the 2012 Accounting & Microfinance Conference in the alluring Asheville, NC. Come explore GMA's "10 Most Beautiful Places in America"

- Paper should present original results or new work.
- Page length can be up to 8 pages.
- Papers should be related to Microfinance/Accounting
- Areas of interest include but are not limited to:
 - ◇ Technical issues
 - ◇ Auditing
 - ◇ SEEP Framework
 - ◇ Ethics
 - ◇ Due Diligence
 - ◇ Emerging issues
 - ◇ Accountability/Sustainability
 - ◇ Going Public
 - ◇ Technology Advancement/Innovations
 - ◇ IFRS
 - ◇ Quality Control Strategies
 - ◇ Case Studies

Please be sure to cite related works, existing journals, case studies, and how they have contributed to the Microfinance industry. General queries regarding the submission process can be sent to: info@blassys.com All papers will be reviewed and final selections will be made. Authors will receive notifications and the topics of the accepted paper will be release on the program booklet & online. Authors of accepted papers will retain proprietary rights to their work and will be available to present their papers during the conference.

Submission Deadlines:

June 15 th , 2012	Abstract (Should not exceed 150 words)
July 30 th , 2012	Narrative
TBA	Presentation

Email your paper to: sfrempong@blassys.com

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Dr. Paul D. Hutchison at the University of North Texas recently updated his *AIS Research Database*. This is a fully searchable, Microsoft Access database that contains the titles to 1,350 AIS articles and other items from 1986 (or initial year of publication) to 2012. Of note, this is the only known electronic database that contains the titles to *Advances in Accounting Information Systems* and *Review of Business Information Systems* (formerly *Review of Accounting Information Systems*) articles.

Here are the coverage dates for the journals currently included in the database:

- Journal of Information Systems* (Fall 1986 – Fall 2011)
- International Journal of Accounting Information Systems* (formerly *Advances in Accounting Information Systems*) (1992 – December 2011)
- The Review of Business Information Systems* (formerly *The Review of Accounting Information Systems*) (Winter 1997 – Spring 2012).

The database is located at the IS Section website (IS Section homepage, Resources, and Database of AIS articles). If you have any questions, please contact Paul Hutchinson at Paul.Hutchinson@unt.edu

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Congratulations!

IS Section Member Dr. L. Murphy Smith has been selected to receive the KPMG Outstanding Published Manuscript Award from Gender Issues and Work-Life Balance (GIWB) Section of the AAA. Murphy and coauthors, Dr. Katherine Taken Smith and Dr. Tracy Rebecca Brower, will be presented with a plaque and cash award at the GIWB Section's business meeting to be held at the AAA Annual Meeting in August 2012 in Washington, D.C. Their winning published manuscript, "An Examination of Work-Life Balance Perspectives of Accountants," was published in 2011 in *International Journal of Critical Accounting*, Vol. 3, No. 4: 367-383.



Murphy notes that the accounting profession is responding in a positive way to work-life balance issues. This benefits the profession, which is then able to attract and retain quality people who can make valuable contributions to their firms, communities, and society. As a result, the future looks bright for the accounting profession, which has a long history of placing high value on the lives and careers of its people. Guidance on keeping a right perspective on money can be traced to ancient times; the wise king Solomon wrote: "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income" (Ecclesiastes 5:10a).

Murphy is the David and Ashley Dill Distinguished Professor of Accounting at Murray State University. He previously served on the faculty at Texas A&M University, the University of Mississippi and Louisiana Tech University. His academic record includes numerous research articles, books and monographs, academic conference presentations and research grants. Smith is in the top one percent of authors by downloaded articles on the Social Sciences Research Network. In addition to being widely published in professional journals, Smith's work has been cited in various news media, including *Fortune*, *USA Today* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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Meeting photos are up on the Picasa website – click on Historian Gallery tab once you are at the Historian website: <https://picasaweb.google.com/AAAIHistorian>
OR Google: AAA IS Historian Picasa

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