From the Faculty Editor

While the role of the student editors is to manage the articles and production of the journal, my role as faculty editor is to oversee the journal and its long-term direction.

Reaching a fourth edition of the iSCHANNEL is quite an achievement for any journal. It is now an important part of ISIG (see Leslie's editorial above) and has become part of the department's routine. We cannot however sit on our laurels and if the journal is going to develop then next year's editorial team need to think carefully about the strategic direction the journal should take. While it is for them to decide, I have used this editorial to make a few suggestions. Firstly the journal could develop new areas within it for other forms of output. This year has seen an interest by the Alumni society (LISA) to write articles for the iSCHANNEL and it would be interesting to develop this link further. Another area where the journal might expand would be within the Department of Management. While the journal is an Information Systems publication there are other students within the Department who could provide a new set of ideas to the journal.

Another option would be to develop the publication cycle of the journal. At present we aim to publish in July, knowing full well that this often slips into a mad panic in August as we rush to complete the journal at the same time as the authors are trying to complete their dissertations. Instead we could try alternative arrangements - perhaps aiming to publish in December with articles being submitted for the following year's publication. This would allow students who had completed their masters to develop their dissertation into an article for the Channel - allowing original research to be published.

Another option is to expand the authorship beyond even the LSE - making the iSCHANNEL an International student journal and inviting authors and reviewers from across the globe to publish. This should not be taken lightly (I can imagine that we could quickly become swamped by submissions) but might be a way to develop the journal into a stronger future.

A student conference may be an opportunity to develop these discussions and see people present and develop their work further. This might run alongside the Open Research Forum and SSIT conferences.

Finally the problem facing any publication is cost. At present the journal is underwritten by a small budget from the Information Systems and Innovation Group, however more money would enable these and other new ideas to develop. Raising money is not easy but a dedicated team of students could easily make it happen. Sponsorship and advertising are one option in this way.

Whatever direction the future editors decide to take it is clear that we have a good quality journal here which is growing and of which everyone who has been involved this year should be proud.

Dr Will Venters
Faculty Editor