Editorial

Chips, PABX, WP, MFT, Videotex, packet-switching, bubble memories: these are some of the buzz-words now. Information technology is changing our lives very rapidly from the introvert processes of classification and coding to a communications merry-go-round of the office of the future. We, as your Editors-in-Chief, are as much dazzled by it as you, our readers. We are reluctant to add new paper to your paper heap about the paperless office. But we sincerely think that we have a sound reason for it. Like you, we have been scanning lots of journals, reports and the minds of colleagues to keep abreast. We have not found any authoritative single publication to cope with the major part of it.

This journal is going to make a, maybe seemingly hopeless, try. Hopeless, maybe, since, in this area, you cannot expect a single journal to cope with it all. Nevertheless, with the help of a very professional Editorial Board and with your contributions, we will have a go.

This reads like a negative editorial, provocatively negative because this journal will not survive if you will not actively participate in our aims and purposes. But, dear readers, we know that you are motivated to move into the new information society, as motivated as users of bibliographic online systems have been and still are. In that respect, we have high hopes: if you contribute and share out your expertise, you might well get the reward that you can do away with some part of your own paper heap.

We are looking to you for help in order to help you and ourselves (not in a direct material sense as far as your Editors are concerned). Join us and let us build a good journal which you will select from your daily mail as a must-to-read.

This first issue can be a modest start only, although we are proud to publish a lot of things for meditation: Mr. Price's paper on the future for information managers sets the scene for the year 2000, for which Mr. Kent predicts the chances for the information industry. Back to now is a straightforward account of pro's and con's of EURONET/DIANE, the controversial but operational European network. More theoretical is Mr. Blair's paper on technology transfer. Again back to down-to-earth: Mrs. Hunter's requirements as a seemingly simple, but oh-so-knowing user of databases.

On top of that a variety of interesting (are they?) items in the news. In the planning stage: a column with questions and answers to provide answers to your questions such as:
– how do I start office automation?
– when can we expect voice input?
– what is the future for dictation?
– I need an interface to connect word-processor A to computer B; is there any?

Fire your questions, please. We, and you, are there to help us.

On top of that we will, of course, review books and reports and will do that rather critically. Our main goal is to guide you through your paper heap.

These are some ideas for future issues. We are certain that you have additional ideas. We need them and your other contributions to guide all of us safely into that all-decisive era of what is our major human asset: INFORMATION.

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