The information management community is a varied one made up of many sub communities. We do interact with those with different interests in meetings and conferences but generally share our work mainly with those working in the same area as ourselves. One purpose of the ICJIM, with its generalist orientation, is to allow specialists in one field to peek over the shoulders of those working in other areas. Cross-pollination has always been as an important an area of intellectual life as it is in the natural world and one never knows what ideas one might find, perhaps unexpectedly, while engaged in such peeking. This very varied issue will provide ample opportunities to expand our perspectives.

Chin-Tai Chen, and Ming-Han Lin implicitly explore the importance of proximity of other IM professionals in their investigation of a Science Park in Taiwan. The business aspects of IM is also addressed by Chan-Hsing Lo, Chih-Hung Tsai, and Rong-Kwei Li in their article about the use of Enterprise Resources Planning in high tech industries. Such a global approach to planning can help any such enterprise prosper in the global economy, which certainly will be of interest to all those working outside academia.

The business aspects of IM cannot, however, be separated from the technical aspects. If a software product is to be successful it must be efficient. And to evaluate that efficiency the tools that measure it must be reliable. Tsoi Ho-Leung’s study investigating the reliability of function point analysis makes an important contribution to our knowledge in this area.

Interference will always compromise both efficiency and effectiveness and as our digital systems become more complex the potential sources of such interference increases. Settapong Malisuwan and Thippawan Iamsinthorn examine potential interference between the wireless systems used in bluetooth technology and in wireless LANs and investigate the possibilities of minimizing that interference.

One area that is of concern to all of us is health and the importance of IM to the biological sciences is emphasized by two of our articles. Identifying protein sequences is an important task in many areas of biology and one where IM plays a very central role. Efficiency and effectiveness is important here and N. M. Zaki, S. Deris, and R. M. Illias contribute a paper that examines a string-weighting scheme involved in the classification of protein sequences. Very directly involved in the biology of health is the use of digital technology to recognize the complex patterns in diagnostic images that can mean the difference between sickness and health. N. A. Mat-Isa, M. Y. Mashor, and N. H. Othman explore a seeded region growing features extraction algorithm that has potential for improving screenings for cervical cancer.
The final article examines the notion of community and the efficiency of communities in themselves. We still meet in face-to-face interactions but the establishment of on-line communities has become critical in many fields of endeavor. Karen S.K. Cheung, Fion S.L. Lee, Rachael K.F. Ip, and Christian Wagner consider what makes some of these communities successful and others less successful through a review of the literature and through an investigation of several actual online communities.

One factor that certainly plays a role in successful community is the exchange of information and we certainly hope that this issue demonstrates that even an old-fashioned paper based exchange as represented by this journal can make a contribution to the varied but always exciting community and communities of IM professionals.

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