Editorial:

Welcome to the final issue of the *Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology* (JRPIT). The computing industry has changed considerably since the first issue of the *Australian Computer Journal* (as it was initially known) was published in November 1967. The Australian Computer Society had only been formed just over a year previously (1 January 1966) from the societies in the various States. The Society announced at that time its intention to produce a publication in the field of computing science. The aim of the Journal was to provide a vehicle for the interchange of knowledge of advances in the theory and practice of computing, data processing, automatic control, communications and allied matters in the computer field, with particular reference to the increasingly important role that computers were assuming in all fields of activity – commerce, industry and government, as well as in science and research. The Journal also aimed to provide an 'informative and authoritative picture of Australian computing activity and development in those fields to the computer world at large'.

Throughout nearly 50 years of publication, the Journal has lived up to its initial aim. It also adapted to the changing nature of information technology as illustrated by the breadth of the three papers published in this issue.

The paper 'Professional Skills Requirements of IT Professional Practice: Australian IT Graduate Perspectives' by Srivalli Nagarajan and Jenny Edwards examines the professional work experiences of recent Australian information technology graduates. It should help universities design appropriate curricula to support the preparation of graduates for professional practice, and industry develop transition strategies for new IT graduates.

The paper 'Do Software Engineers Have Preferred Representational Systems?' by Methanias Júnior *et al* uses a survey combined with Item Response Theory (IRT) data analysis to show that software engineers have Preferred Representational Systems, and that those preferences can be identified.

The paper 'Comparing Functional Visualisations of Lists of Genes using Singular Value Decomposition' by Hamid Ghous *et al* is an illustration of the applicability of information technology in medical research.

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http://ws.acs.org.au/jrpit/JRPITEditors.html