Table 2. Ranking of journals by impact—information systems.

Rank	Journal	Impact
1	Communications of the ACM	2.238
2	MIS Quarterly	2.064
3	Human-Computer Interaction	1.95
4	Information and Management	1.176
5	IS Research	1.093
6	Journal of the ACM	1.078
7	IEEE Computer	1.062
8	IBM Systems Journal	0.729
9	European Journal of IS	0.682
10	ACM Computing Surveys	0.641
11	Behavior and IT	0.603
12	Decision Support Systems	0.511
13	Int'l J. of E-Commerce	0.481
14	Int'l J. of H-C Studies	0.471
15	The Information Society	0.404
16	J of Strategic IS	0.4
17	Data Base	0.393
18	Information Systems Journal	0.375
19	Computer Journal	0.323
20	Journal of MIS	0.321
21	J of Org. Comp. & EC	0.125
22	Information Systems Mgmt	0.114
23	Journal of CIS	0.034

those journals, to present them to a worldwide audience via traditionally prestigious outlets, is an achievement and a career goal. Notwithstanding, once those papers have been published, what then? Will people recognize the value of research and begin to use it? Will they pull the information and cite it?

With this in mind, we set about establishing whether perceptions of IS journals matched with the reality of dissemination. The information most readily available on dissemination is that of citation, and, for example, this has recently been applied to computer science journals [3]. In this case, we used the journal citation reports published by ISI, both from the sciences (the Science Citation Index 2002) [2] and social sciences (the Social Sciences Citation Index 2000) [1]. Against these, we examined the results of one of the most recent and most cited surveys of global perceptions of IS journals, published in *Communications* in September 2001 [4]. Within the IS discipline there are various communities, such as those that cut across geographic and thematic boundaries [4]. However, such an analysis is beyond the scope of this column—as is typical in these discussions, we focus on the global IS community as the unit of analysis. Table 1 shows the global ranking of the top 50 journals in

the survey along with the impact factor of the journal. Non-specialist journals—journals that are more oriented to business, management, or operations research—

Table 3. Ranking of journals by impact—business, management, and OR.

Rank	Journal	Impact
1	Academy of Mgmt Review	3.912
2	Admin. Science Quarterly	3.333
3	Harvard Business Review	2.561
4	Academy of Management J	2.375
5	Sloan Management Review	1.794
6	Org. Behavior & Human Dec.	1.2
7	Organization Science	1.052
8	Management Science	1.011
9	Operations Research	0.813
10	European Journal of OR	0.494
11	OMEGA	0.486
12	Decision Sciences	0.473
13	Interfaces	0.376

are highlighted in the table.

Sorting the journals by impact factor reveals some interesting results and these are shown in

Tables 2 and 3. We have distinguished between IS outlets and general business, management, or operations research. It is worth noting that 12 of the journals did not have impact factors according to the data we had available (see Table 1) and these have been omitted from Table 2. However, none of these were in the top rankings, the first starting at rank 18. In addition, IEEE and ACM *Transactions* had highly varying levels of impact and thus were also omitted.

The data suggests there is consistency in several of the top-rated journals, but wide variety in others. At the top of the rankings is *Communications*, which clearly has the highest impact of all journals assessed. Close behind is *MIS Quarterly*, again with an impact factor above two. This is followed by a more technical journal, *Human-Computer Interaction*, and *Information and Management*, both of which have been promoted by the ranking. *IS Research* falls to fifth in the ranking. Overall, the biggest gainers are the *Journal of the ACM*, *Behaviour and IT*, and *Human-Computer Interaction*. The biggest demotions are for *Journal of MIS*, *Data Base*, and the *Information Systems Journal*.

In the business-oriented journals, there is also some change in the ranking. It is worth noting that four of the journals had impacts above those of the IS journals, but that these are more general outlets and thus not easily comparable. The Academy of