Editorial

The *International Journal of Forecasting* is the leading journal in forecasting research, and one of the leading journals in economic and business research. Consequently, it is a great honour to be appointed Editor-in-Chief of the journal, and I hope I can continue the excellent work of my predecessors. In particular, Professor Jan de Gooijer has done a wonderful job in leading the journal over the past few years, and I am grateful to be taking over with the journal in such good shape.

I would like to encourage all readers to send their very best forecasting research for publication in the *IJF*. The journal's reputation and impact depends on the quality of the work we publish.

The biggest change that will be immediately apparent to authors is that we have now an electronic submission system. Authors are encouraged to submit their papers via the website http://ees.elsevier.com/ijf/. Manual submission of papers will continue to be allowed for now, although I plan to eventually phase this out. The electronic submission system should provide substantial benefits in the speed with which papers can be processed.

I am also keen to see the new journal website (http://www.forecasters.org/ijf/) used as a repository for supplementary materials such as data sets and computer code. Making these materials available to other researchers helps greatly in the rapid dissemination of new ideas. The disclosure of data will be considered in the decision of whether to publish a paper.

The *IJF* aims to cover all aspects of forecasting, unifying the field and bridging the gap between theory and practice. In looking through the published issues from the past few years, it seems we are doing quite well at achieving this, but that there are some areas of forecasting research and practice that have not tended to be published in the *IJF*. Methodological areas that currently appear infrequently in the journal include:

- Evaluation of forecast performance beyond point forecasts;
- Evaluation of large-scale economic forecasting models used by many governments;
- Hierarchical forecasting where forecasts are required of individual series as well as at various levels of aggregation;
- New product forecasting;
- Computationally intensive methods such as neural networks, boosting and bagging;
- Forecasting of categorical information;
- Forecasting systems and the organisation of forecasting.

Application areas that are under-represented in the journal include:

- Climate
- Demography
- Environment
- Internet traffic
- Technology
- Politics and elections

Researchers working in any of the above areas are particularly encouraged to send their papers to the *IJF*. Of course, we intend to continue to cover the many areas of theory and practice that are current strengths of the journal. My aim is to enhance the journal's status as the leading publisher of forecasting research across a very broad range of applications and methodology.

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