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An Editorial Statement

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During the last decade knowledge on forecasting methods and applications has grown rapidly. However, this growth has occurred without a central focus. Contributions to the practice and methods of forecasting have been spread across many disciplines. Researchers and practitioners in one area are often unaware of the advances made in other-areas. Efforts are frequently duplicated, and key findings sometimes pass unnoticed.

The *Journal of Forecasting* will provide a centralized focus on recent developments in the art and science of forecasting. It will bring practice and theory together. It intends to become a communication forum for practitioners of forecasting, users of forecasts, and researchers involved with forecasting in the social, behavioral, management and engineering sciences. It is not intended to become a journal publishing technical papers only, or advocating a single approach or area over others. Its purpose is to be truly interdisciplinary and bridge the gap between theory and practice. In this respect, papers from all areas of forecasting are welcome. These areas include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Evaluation of various forecasting methodologies
- Forecasting applications in business, government, and the military
- Judgmental/psychological aspects of forecasting
- Economic and econometric forecasting
- Time series forecasting
- Technological forecasting
- Organizational and implementation aspects of forecasting
- Impact of uncertainty on decision making
- Seasonal adjustments
- New products forecasting
- Financial forecasting
- Production forecasting

Major criteria for selecting papers for publication will be those of importance (advancement in theoretical, conceptual and/or empirical knowledge). Efficiency (size versus importance of paper) competency (e.g., how well existing knowledge has been taken into account), and replicability of the results in the case of empirical studies.

To assure fairness and objectivity in publishing, blind reviewing will be used. Also, authors of controversial papers are invited to attach a "Note to Referees" page. This note would describe the model (hypotheses) and possible outcomes, but not the results. The referees would then try to predict the outcomes prior to reading the paper. (This procedure would help to identify surprising contributions.) Extremely controversial material may be submitted to an unrefereed contributions section. This section will be clearly labeled as "unrefereed" and it will appear only in rare circumstances.

The reasoning behind the policies for judging and publishing papers are explained in the last paper of this issue. In this paper, Scott Armstrong has done an extensive amount of research regarding publishing in scientific journals. We have attempted to take these findings into consideration and make the *Journal of Forecasting* a vehicle by which those disadvantages of publishing can be eliminated while strengthening the strong points of publishing in scientific journals.