

Editorial

It is almost impossible to think that the year is already in its final month and that the next issue of ORiON is already on my desk. This issue of ORiON contains, as usual, three diverse papers.

R Reed and JH van Vuuren are the authors of the first paper in this issue. It is titled “A decision support system for firebase location in a nature conservation area.” They provide multi-objective models to find good placements for firebase stations in a nature conservation area. The solutions to these models provide a trade-off between minimising the cost of locating firebases and maximising the coverage of key areas in a conservation area. They present their models in the form of a computerised decision support system. These models are applied to a special case study involving Table Mountain National Park, a nature conservation area in the Western Cape, South Africa.

The second paper with the title “A semi-supervised segmentation algorithm as applied to k-means using information value” is authored by DG Breed, T Verster and SE Terblanche. They present a semi-supervised segmentation algorithm based on k-means clustering. It applies information value to inform the segmentation process. They also present an empirical study that show that the newly proposed semi-supervised segmentation algorithm outperforms known unsupervised and supervised segmentation techniques.

The final paper by VSS Yadavalli, K Jeganathany, T Venkatesanz, S Padmasekaranz and S Jehoashan Kingsly has the title: “A retrieval queueing-inventory system with J -additional options for service and finite source.” In this paper a continuous review $(s; S)$ inventory system at a service facility with finite homogeneous sources of demands and retrieval is analysed. The authors use a Markov approach to determine system performance measures for this system.

This issue of ORiON marks the end my stint as editor-in-chief. I would thus like to thank the rest of the editorial team for their hard work over the past seven years. Martin Kidd and Gavin le Roux are performing excellent jobs as journal manager and typesetting assistant, respectively. Also, a huge thank you to the authors, reviewers, subscribers and readers of ORiON for supporting ORiON during my stint as editor-in-chief. Without all of you, there would be no ORiON.

It was a great privilege and pleasure to serve ORiON, and thus the Operations Research Society of South Africa, in this capacity. I am glad I could contribute to the larger OR community in this role. It was hard work, but at the same time rewarding. It is stimulation to have a finger on the pulse of the research coming from the different OR centres in South Africa. A special thanks to everybody who helped and assisted me on this journey.

I would like to convey my best wishes to ORiON and the new editor-in-chief, Fanie Terblanche. I am sure ORiON will go from strength to strength under his guidance. My best wishes also to all the authors, reviewers, subscribers and readers of ORiON for the coming festive season. May 2018 be a prosperous year for all of you!

Stephan Visagie
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