

Editorial

The past year has been an exciting time in the history of ORSSA as the structure of the organisation has changed dramatically. After many years of a chapter-based system, it was decided to no longer divide the organisation based on geographical location. Due to the increased availability and popularity of internet-based meeting software, geographical barriers have ceased to be a problem when arranging ORSSA events. We look forward to seeing the impact of the new structure on the organisation during the next few years.

There is also a change in the editorial team of ORiON. I would like to thank Dr Stephan Nel, who acted as ORiON's typesetter in the past. Dr Nel has stepped down and Mrs Jeanne Marié Coetzee has taken up the mantle of typesetter. I would like to thank Mrs Coetzee for her willingness to assist in this capacity and I gladly welcome her to the ORiON team.

The current issue of ORiON contains two papers; the first is titled "Content and access provision in a discrete competition model", by Potgieter and Howell. In this paper, the authors consider a discrete competition model featuring non-standard assumptions, such as consumer specific cost savings. A numerically complex model is implemented and described and it is found to produce interesting and, in some cases, unexpected results. For example, it is widely held that maximal firm revenue is unlikely to be achieved when high consumer surplus is present. However, the findings in the paper challenge this belief.

The second paper, by Ramsunder and Olanrewaju, is titled "Energy analysis via value stream mapping: a case study of an automotive weld plant". In this paper, the authors consider the impact of lean manufacturing on cost and waste reduction. In view of the growing consciousness towards environmental preservation, the paper considers value stream mapping techniques and the resulting environmental impacts. The paper presents a case study relating to a manufacturing company.

I would like to thank the authors of the papers for submitting their research to ORiON and the reviewers for their time and effort. Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to Ms Elzanie Bothma, the journal manager, and Mrs Coetzee, the typesetter, for all of their efforts in order to make this issue possible.

Jaco Visagie
December 2021