
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Joel D. Wisner is Professor of Supply Chain Management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He earned his PhD in Operations and Logistics Management from Arizona State University in 1991. Prior to that time, Dr Wisner worked as an engineer in the oil industry in West Texas and the Louisiana Gulf Coast, USA. His research interests are in quality assessment and improvement strategies along the supply chain. He has recently completed a textbook called *Principles of Supply Chain Management: A Balanced Approach* published by Thomson South-Western, and his articles have appeared in numerous journals including *Journal of Business Logistics*, *Journal of Operations Management*, *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *Journal of Transportation, Production and Operations Management Journal*, and *Quality Management Journal*.

The launch of a new journal is a very exciting event and it is particularly exciting for Inderscience Publishers, who have a long history of encouraging high quality and timely research in a wide array of topics. The *International Journal of Integrated Supply Management (IJISM)*, a refereed journal published in four issues per year, is seeking papers that discuss current practices and research in the broad area of supply chain management.

The practice of supply chain management is growing rapidly, creating the need for more and continued research in this area. *IJISM* aims to satisfy this need by providing rigorous, timely research in all disciplines within the topic area of supply chain management. Research studies are sought from numerous areas of interest to supply chain management, including process integration, information and technology management, purchasing and supply management, quality management and JIT, transportation and logistics, the financial aspects of supply chain management, and industry supply chain practices.

Journal orientation

IJISM is an international journal designed to bridge the academic disciplines and to link academia and industry practitioners. *IJISM* is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge regarding the practice of and research in supply chain management. As such, *IJISM* encourages survey and modelling papers, case studies, discussions of Supply Chain Management Centres, theory-building papers, and essays on supply chain management topics. The journal offers:

- an interdisciplinary focus not found in other supply chain-oriented journals
- the opportunity to share news and ongoing research on global supply chain topics
- international coverage of industry practices in supply chain management
- fast and fair peer reviews of manuscripts.

Subject coverage

IJISM is a refereed journal of original, previously unpublished manuscripts. The Editors invite submissions of papers relevant to the journal's editorial aims. Although the possible set of paper topics is large and we encourage submission on any area within the scope of supply chain management, the following topic areas are particularly suitable (but are not limited to) for publication in *IJISM*:

- JIT and quality issues in supply chain management
- supply chain process integration
- supply chain management in services
- purchasing and transportation issues
- trends in supply chain management
- information systems and supply chain visibility
- the greening of supply chains
- financial and accounting issues
- extending the supply chain
- performance measurement along the supply chain
- supply chain management in small businesses
- case studies and practical applications illustrating supply chain management issues.

In this inaugural issue

Among the many high-quality papers we have received, we decided to select six papers covering a wide range of topics for the inaugural issue, along with an interesting profile of a supply chain management research centre. I think you will find these papers to be interesting and thought provoking. These papers cover topics of trust, power, and dependence in supply chains, international location decisions, locating hub-seaports, vendor evaluation and selection, supply chain flexibility, and supply chain management implementation. Hopefully, the papers will provide ideas for further supply chain research, or ideas for improving some aspect of business practice.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the staff of Inderscience for their high-quality professional assistance during the pre-publication process and to our editorial team and board members for their continuous support and review work during the journal's planning phase. Our most sincere thanks though, go to all of the authors who shared their knowledge and research outcomes with the readers of this inaugural issue.