

Note from the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the *IBM Systems Journal*

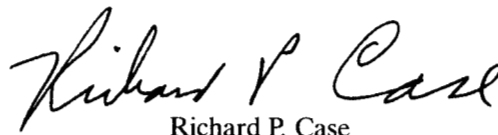
The technological advances within the computer industry have provided a rich and evolving base for system design and innovation. The speed, capacity, and capabilities of systems seem to have grown boundlessly, thereby allowing subsequent designs and programming to bring solutions to a widening set of problems facing business and society.

Transforming technology into workable products is a complex process. It takes many people in various roles to develop, understand, and harness new capabilities. Professional publications, such as the *IBM Systems Journal*, serve as a vital link in this process by communicating knowledge of what can be accomplished, as well as showing what has actually been done. They also help us focus on where evolving developments may lead us.

The systems community has devoted much of its attention during the past quarter century to making computing resources and data widely available in reliable, economical, and usable form. We must now solve problems in a broad and diverse range of technical areas, which include distribution of data and effective utilization of processing power; integration of voice, pictures, and text; exploitation of the capabilities of knowledge-based systems; and continuation of the process of enhancing ease of use in systems and access to them. As in the past, the *Systems Journal* will continue to serve as a vehicle to present developments in these exciting areas.

This special issue of the *Systems Journal*, published in two successive parts, presents many facets of the past, present, and future of computing which are indicative of what has appeared in the previous twenty-five years. Throughout its existence, the *Journal* has contributed to the growth and progress of our industry by sharing systems knowledge, and this goal remains constant.

As Chairman of the Advisory Board of the *IBM Systems Journal*, I want to thank the past and present authors, editors, associate editors, and referees of the *Journal* for their professional efforts, and the design, production, and circulation staffs for their skilled and dedicated assistance. Together they proudly serve to link you, our readers, with the continuing evolution in new systems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard P. Case". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Case" clearly legible. The middle initial "P." is smaller and less distinct.

Richard P. Case