

6-30-2023

The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

Sune D. Müller

University of Oslo, sunedm@ifi.uio.no

Katrin Jonsson

Umeå University, katrin.jonsson@umu.se

Henri Pirkkalainen

Tampere University, henri.pirkkalainen@tuni.fi

Elena Parmiggiani

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, parmiggi@ntnu.no

Olgerta Tona

University of Gothenburg, olgerta.tona@ait.gu.se

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aisel.aisnet.org/sjis>

Recommended Citation

Müller, Sune D.; Jonsson, Katrin; Pirkkalainen, Henri; Parmiggiani, Elena; and Tona, Olgerta (2023) "The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems," *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*: Vol. 35: Iss. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://aisel.aisnet.org/sjis/vol35/iss1/1>

This material is brought to you by the AIS Journals at AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). It has been accepted for inclusion in Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems by an authorized administrator of AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). For more information, please contact elibrary@aisnet.org.

Reflection note:

The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

Sune Dueholm Müller
University of Oslo, Norway
sunedm@ifi.uio.no

Katrin Jonsson
Umeå University, Sweden
katrin.jonsson@umu.se

Henri Pirkkalainen
Tampere University, Finland
henri.pirkkalainen@tuni.fi

Elena Parmiggiani
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
parmiggi@ntnu.no

Olgerta Tona
University of Gothenburg, Sweden
olgerta.tona@ait.gu.se

Abstract. In this article, we look at the history of the Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS), its publication record, place in the Scandinavian IS tradition, and future directions. We show how the journal has evolved by looking at its readership, authorship, and publications over the years. We include former editor's perspectives on SJIS as a basis for outlining the journal's editorial focus and policy now and in the future. We provide guidance to prospective authors considering submitting their manuscripts to the journal in terms of types of studies and submissions that we welcome.

Key words: Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems, SJIS, Scandinavian IS tradition, and editorial policy.

1 Introduction

The Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS) was founded in 1989, making it one of the longest-running Information Systems (IS) journals in Europe. SJIS is the journal of the IRIS Association (Information Systems Research in Scandinavia), which is the Scandinavian chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AIS). Since its inception, the journal has gained in popularity, has published articles by many world-renowned IS scholars, and is currently in the process of indexation to ensure even greater visibility. At this crucial time, we want to look back at the history of the journal, its publication record, its place in the Scandinavian IS tradition, and where it is headed in the future. This serves to show how the journal has evolved over time and provides guidance to prospective authors considering submitting their manuscripts to the journal. In the following, we will first place SJIS within the Scandinavian IS research tradition, provide a high-level analysis of publications in the journal, and describe the editorial policy of the journal now and in the future with the aid of all former editors-in-chief, whom we asked for input to this editorial.

2 A brief history of Scandinavian IS

The Scandinavian tradition has been described as one of the major intellectual waves that shaped the history of the IS field (Hirschheim & Klein, 2012). In 2017, SJIS dedicated a whole special issue to the history of the “Scandinavian Researcher Career Retrospectives” tradition (Lanamäki et al., 2017), showcasing its influence. Scandinavian IS research has a history of focusing on “user participation as a strategy for increasing working life democracy” (Bjerknes & Bratteteig, 1995, p. 73), rooted in trade union projects in the 1960s and 1970s. It is also closely related to the establishment of the first IS education programs in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden in the late 1970s and early 1980s. These programs focused heavily on the technical aspects of IS, not least on systems development. Although Scandinavian IS research has had a tradition of being ‘critical’ and user-centered rather than management-oriented, during the 1980s its focus shifted from the user (in the form of skilled workers) to also include the organizational context (Bjerknes & Bratteteig, 1995). There was growing interest in the social aspects of IS, including the organizational context of IS development, implementation, and use.

SJIS was established as an essential outlet for the publication of research on the sociotechnical aspects of IS. Since its inception, the Scandinavian research community has continued to grow and evolve with an increasing focus on the human and social aspects of IS, for example, technology-enabled organizational change and innovation, and the

impact of IS on work practices, individual well-being, and societal development. This oversimplified historical account of the Scandinavian IS research tradition is nuanced by Bansler (1989), who offers an analysis of its roots, and Iivari and Lyytinen (1998) with their account of its growth and diversification. The four IFIP WG9.7 conferences (2003, 2007, 2010, and 2014) on the History of Nordic Computing also provide rich sources of information on the Scandinavian IS research tradition (see <http://ifipwg97.org/workshops>).

A pillar of the Scandinavian IS tradition is the IRIS conference, which is not only claimed to be the oldest consecutive IS conference in the world, but is said to “have played a central role in forming and perpetuating the oral history of the discipline” (Lanamäki et al., 2017, p. 10). The Scandinavian IS community has its own identity and story, which is rooted in the tradition of sociotechnical research and the opposition to a purely technical perspective on IS (Bergquist et al., 2018; Bjørn-Andersen & Clemmensen, 2017). This sociotechnical research tradition is reflected in the articles published in SJIS.

3 SJIS readership and authorship at a glance

An analysis of the distribution of the journal’s readership shows that SJIS has a global audience with a particularly strong foothold in North America and Europe (Figure 1). Although it is not surprising that Scandinavian countries appear on the list of countries with the most article downloads, it should be noted that most downloads originate outside of Scandinavia, specifically the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

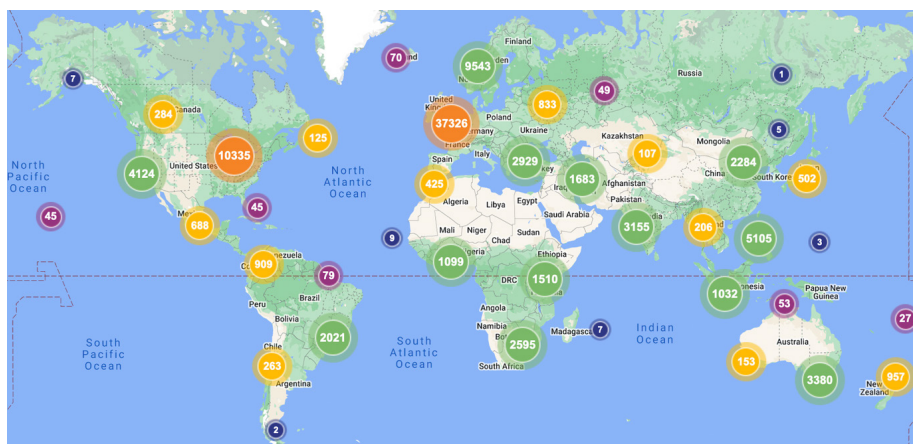


Figure 1. Global readership distribution 2008-2022¹

An analysis of the authorship distribution of the journal shows that SJIS continues to publish works by IS scholars from all over the world, most of them affiliated with Scandinavian institutions (Figure 2). However, it should be noted that more than 25 articles have been published by authors from each of the following countries: Australia, England, Germany, and the United States.

Figure 2 is based on the affiliations reported by the first authors at the time of publication and does not necessarily reflect where the published studies were conducted. Figure 3 provides a detailed breakdown of the authorship distribution based on the

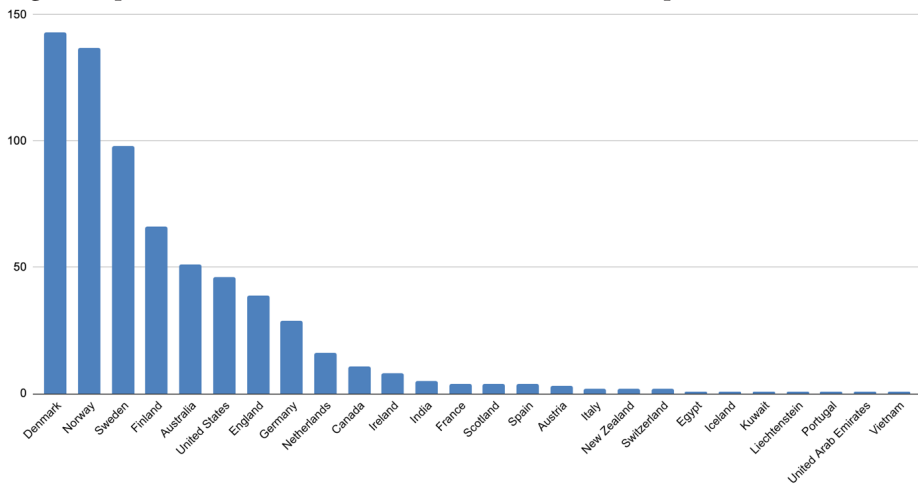


Figure 2. Authorship distribution by country: SJIS articles 2009-2022

affiliations of the co-authors, showing an even greater representation of countries. This reinforces the claim that contributions to the journal are indeed global.

4 SJIS publications over the years

To better understand the types of articles published in SJIS over time, we analyzed all articles published since the inception of the journal in 1989. We used Leximancer text mining software (<https://www.leximancer.com>), which has been applied extensively in other IS studies (see, for example, Carter et al., 2015). Figure 4 shows the resulting concept map. Concept labels are derived from the data by Leximancer. We briefly describe ‘research’, ‘work’, and ‘data’ (but exclude the self-referential themes ‘Information Systems’ and ‘Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems’).

Additionally, we have divided the SJIS publications into four distinct decades (i.e., 1990s, 2000s, 2010s, and 2020s) to illustrate the evolution of focus in these publications. The four decades correspond to four conceptual maps visualized in Figure 5.

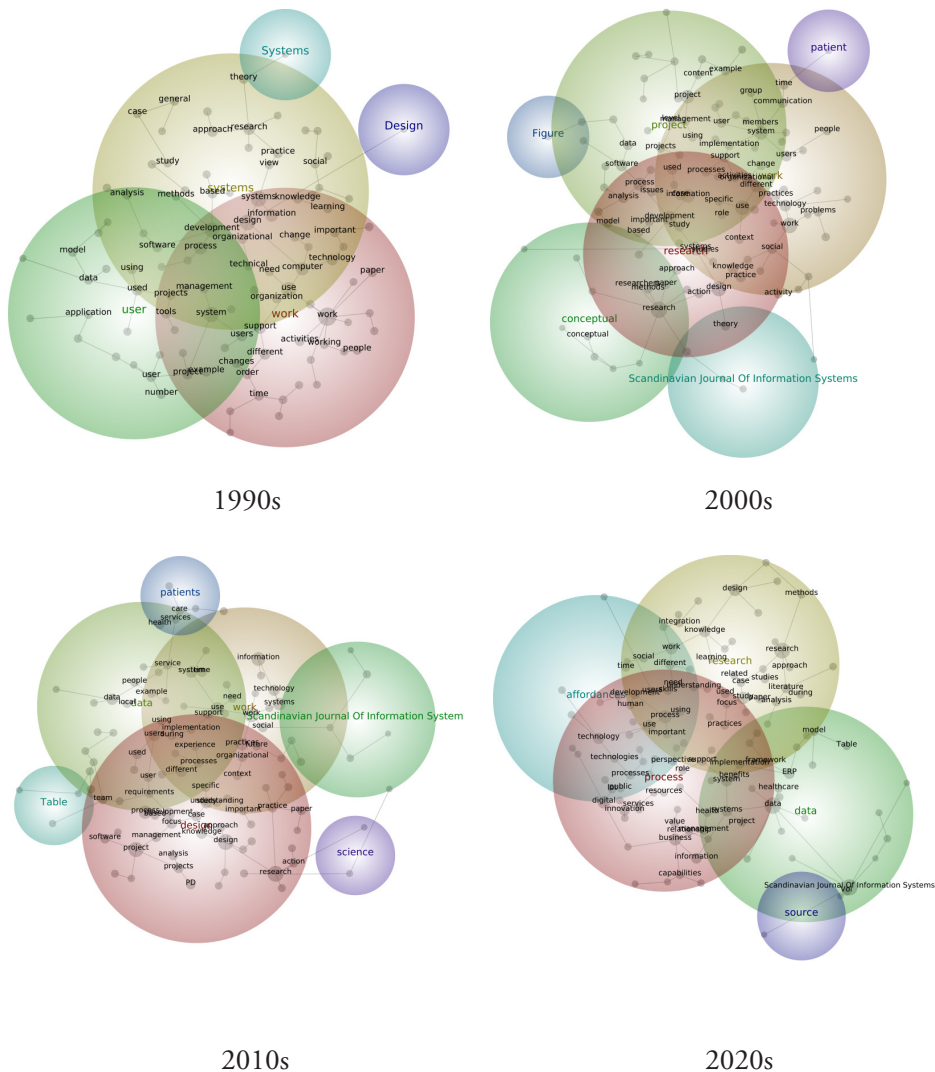


Figure 5. Concept maps by decades

‘Research’, which is more appropriately labeled ‘research design’, is a central theme and the associated concepts are telling of the types of research published in SJIS. The analysis reveals a high degree of methodological pluralism, with action research and case studies being the most frequent. Regarding the type of study, process and organizational studies that investigate sociotechnical aspects of technology-enabled change, including information and knowledge management, are prevalent.

‘Work’ is another central theme with publications that focus on the people, management, and organizational aspects of the development, implementation, and use of information systems. Further analysis of keywords shows a strong emphasis on, among other things, issues and challenges associated with IS design and IT-enabled innovation (i.e., change processes), including those related to learning and communication.

Another central theme is ‘data’ and how they drive changes in businesses, management, and services. The associated concepts reveal a focus on data use, including how to turn data into actionable information and how data are being used, for example, for management purposes. Previous articles have reported the use of data in, e.g., business and health contexts, revealing an interest in data across different settings and use cases. Data as a theme is also being investigated from different perspectives and for different purposes, from trying to understand user needs during the requirements definition phase of systems development to experience gathering and user support during post-implementation use of information systems.

Looking across themes and decades, there has been a shift in focus from systems-centric to participatory design and process-oriented studies of IS in SJIS. This development is consistent with the increased emphasis on the social aspects of sociotechnical systems in Scandinavian IS research over time.

5 Former Editors’ Perspectives on SJIS

We invited all former editors-in-chief (<https://aisel.aisnet.org/sjis/pasteditors.html>) to reflect on the characteristics of SJIS, its editorial policy over time, and the future of the journal. Their detailed reflections are documented in Appendix A.

Eric Monteiro, for example, argues that ‘Scandinavian’ should be understood metaphorically rather than geographically. As succinctly put by Lars Mathiassen, who co-founded and served as the journal’s first editor-in-chief, “SJIS is a peer-reviewed AIS journal, organized by the Scandinavian IS Community, anchored in a Scandinavian tradition, and open to international submissions”. The journal publishes IS research with a strong Scandinavian flavor. Therefore, SJIS publishes work that builds on and engages with the “Scandinavian tradition of systems development and its heritage of

use- and user-oriented research” (Margunn Aanestad). Karlheinz Kautz also described this tradition as “emancipatory and egalitarian approaches to (social) science”.

In terms of editorial policy, the journal prioritizes articles “across the world that ‘emphasized engagement with the field’ in one form or another” (Ola Henfridsson). SJIS publishes research that is best described as engaged scholarship. The articles are “empirically grounded in mainly qualitative research, such as interview studies or case studies, but also mixed-method studies” (Christina Keller). The journal has tried to distinguish itself from North American journals by “offering interesting research inspired by a Nordic set of values” (Karlheinz Kautz). Theoretical and methodological pluralism is encouraged (Samuli Pekkola), and technical or hypotheses testing studies that only advance state-of-the-art knowledge incrementally are usually rejected. Instead, SJIS aims to “publish excellent research articles with a strong theoretical orientation that [pay] careful attention to the material aspects of the technology under study, as well as their implications for human activities and relations” (Rikard Lindgren). In summary, the journal is open to “studies having this Scandinavian state of mind, i.e., qualitative, participatory, design-oriented, critical Information Systems research” (Netta Iivari).

Several former editors advocate that the journal does not try to mimic the IS senior scholars’ basket of journals, but that it provides a space for research that deviates from current mainstream topics while maintaining a strong emphasis on Scandinavian perspectives and high-quality research. However, it is important to strike a “balance between maintaining the Scandinavian tradition and engaging with new topics” (Bendik Bygstad). Some even want to see it become an outlet for critical research (Polyxeni Vasilakopoulou) that problematizes the consequences of digital services for work and quality of life (Matti Rossi). Opinion papers and special issues of a thought-provoking nature are requested in the future (Magnus Bergquist and Jacob Nørbjerg) to prevent SJIS from becoming too mainstream.

6 The future of SJIS

As we carry on the editorial policy of the past, we aim to outline the types of articles that we hope to see published in the years to come. SJIS, an AIS peer-reviewed journal, welcomes submissions from all over the world.

The core focus of SJIS lies in all aspects of digitalization and its societal implications. Our aim for the journal is to be future-oriented and contribute to societal good. This means that we welcome submissions that engage in various types of IS research with a forward-looking and constructive mindset that seeks to improve society. This does not exclude critical studies or studies of non-successful cases. On the contrary, it is impor-

tant to learn from failures as we move toward technology that is human-centric in the future.

As stated by Hirschheim and Klein (2012), it is a misconception that SJIS is “a place for Scandinavian researchers to publish their work” (p. 213). SJIS is open to all scholars around the world who want to submit articles that contribute to IS research and share the Scandinavian ‘mindset’, which means articles that:

- engage in practice and focus on sociotechnical phenomena.
- discuss contemporary, real-world problems.
- problematize conventional wisdom.

By engaging in practice, we mean ‘engaged scholarship’. The concept has been used to describe Scandinavian IS research and classify articles published in SJIS between 1989 and 2008, showing a gradual increase in the number of engaged scholarship studies published over the period (Mathiassen & Nielsen, 2008). In terms of engaged scholarship, we distinguish between:

1. “Practice research: focuses on *understanding* IS practices with the purpose of informing or advising relevant stakeholders.
2. Design research: focuses on *designing* various forms of artefacts with the purpose of supporting stakeholders engaged in IS practices.
3. Action research: focuses on *changing* IS practices through problem solving in response to specific client needs” (Mathiassen & Nielsen, 2008, p. 4).

Our emphasis on engaged scholarship does not rule out theoretical and conceptual contributions or other types of engagement in practice because such articles may be the first steps toward making research-based knowledge useful in practice. Consequently, conceptual and theoretical articles submitted are expected to extensively discuss the practical implications of the reported research. Furthermore, we appreciate and welcome behavioral research on IS use, especially when it contributes to design and action with clear insights on informing and advising the IS community.

By studies that problematize conventional wisdom, we mean studies that take a critical perspective, challenge common beliefs, and uncover power dynamics and social inequalities. They include, but are not limited to, critical examination of taken-for-granted knowledge and assumptions and exploration of alternative perspectives. We also encourage studies investigating the ethical use of technology, for example, how various technologies can be used to promote sustainability, equality, and human dignity.

We furthermore seek to publish articles based on a diversity of methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives. They are all expected to engage with and contribute to the IS literature. In simple terms, it means that all articles must take into account state-of-the-art IS literature within the field of interest and discuss how the study extends existing knowledge within the field. Furthermore, we encourage the authors to articulate their contribution to research in the form of theorizing. However, theorizing is interpreted broadly and spans everything from tentative propositions to complete frameworks.

We want to encourage authors to submit ideas that are not mainstream (but still fulfill the above-mentioned criteria) and are likely to generate debate. This may include opinion papers and special issue proposals that are more daring and provocative than those published in the IS senior scholars' basket of journals.

We welcome multiple types of submissions:

- Regular research articles presenting completed research studies.
- Opinion papers that discuss timely topics and spark research commentary.
- Workshop notes that distill key insights from different IS research workshops with participants from multiple countries.
- Special issue proposals.

If you are in doubt about whether your manuscript fits the journal, we encourage you to contact one of the editors (<https://aisel.aisnet.org/sjis/editorialboard.html>).

Notes

1. AIS does not have data further back than 2008.

Bibliography

Bansler, J. (1989). Systems Development Research in Scandinavia: Three Theoretical Schools. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 1, 3–20.

Bergquist, M., Henriksen, H., Ojala, A., & Vassilakopoulou, P. (2018). SJIS Mission. Topical Areas and Research Approaches. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 30(2), 3–4.

- Bjerknes, G., & Bratteteig, T. (1995). User Participation and Democracy: A Discussion of Scandinavian Research on System Development. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 7(1), 73–98.
- Bjørn-Andersen, N., & Clemmensen, T. (2017). The Shaping of the Scandinavian Socio-Technical IS Research Tradition. Confessions of an accomplice. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 29(1), 4.
- Hirschheim, R., & Klein, H. (2012). A Glorious and Not-So-Short History of the Information Systems Field. *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, 13(4), 188–235.
- Iivari, J., & Lyytinen, K. (1998). Research on Information Systems Development in Scandinavia—Unity in Plurality. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 10.
- Lanamäki, A., Porra, J., & Hirschheim, R. (2017). A Call to Write the Nordic Information Systems Research Field History. Viewing the Scandinavian way through a career retrospectives lens. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 29(1), 3–18.
- Mathiassen, L., & Nielsen, P. (2008). Engaged Scholarship in IS Research. *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*, 20(2), 3–20.

Appendix A

All former editors-in-chief have been asked to respond to the following three questions:

1. How would you describe SJIS as a journal in a few sentences?
2. How would you describe the journal's editorial policy during your time as an editor? Specifically, what were the criteria when determining the submitted papers' fit with the journal?
3. How would you like to see the journal develop in the future in terms of aim and scope?

Table A1 below contains their answers.

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

Table A1. Answers from former SJIS editors-in-chief

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Polixeni Vasilakopoulou	<p>The journal draws on the rich Scandinavian sociotechnical research tradition emphasizing empirical studies, critical perspectives and the bearing of digital technology on people and organizations. Furthermore, as design has been at the core of Scandinavian IS research, SJIS has been especially welcoming and attracting design-oriented research.</p> <p>As SJIS has operated since 1989, it has been evolving over the years balancing between classic topics around IS design and use and emerging areas that attract the interest of the IS audience including for instance, sustainability</p>	<p>The overarching criterion was to publish papers that are well-positioned within IS research, linking to extant, related literature and contributing to ongoing discussions in our field. SJIS reviewers are encouraged to be constructive, and their reviews have been instrumental for improving manuscripts and ensuring the methodological rigorosity and conceptual clarity required for having them published. We have also been looking for papers that bring bold ideas to our domain and this has been one of the criteria when shortlisting papers from the Scandinavian Conference on IS.</p>	<p>I think the journal can take a special role in IS research by publishing papers that contribute on critical discourses in our domain. Furthermore, as the journal is especially welcoming empirically grounded studies, I would like to see it develop more towards publishing insights from different types of engaged research in IS helping to bring research and practice closer together.</p>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Arto Ojala	The journal publishes very good quality articles that have been reviewed by IS scholars with deep knowledge of the field. Even though there is "Scandinavia" in the name of the journal, it publishes works around the globe	<p>All the editors did great cooperation with each other as well as with reviewers and authors. During my time as an editor, we worked a lot on the editorial policy to clarify the scope of the journal and define what "Scandinavian research tradition in IS" really means.</p> <p>In the process, the editor-in-chief took the first look and rejected a paper if it was clearly out of the journal's scope. In borderline cases, it was forwarded to other editor(s) to make the decision. Thereafter it was either sent to review or desk-rejected.</p>	I think that the scope of the journal is pretty good. However, IS journals are publishing more and more multidisciplinary works, so hopefully SJIS follows that development

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Helle Zinner Henriksen	Strong focus on the socio-technical dimension of Information Systems. Aiming for publishing Nordic perspectives on IS research.	Aiming at including younger scholars with a bolder approach without compromising on quality. Being inclusive in relation to SCIS papers and IRIS activities.	Making it attractive for scholars focusing on Scandinavian IS research to publish in the journal. Would be great if it would be an outlet which focuses on the Scandinavian perspectives—though SJIS shouldn't be exclusively for Scandinavian scholars.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Magnus Bergquist	<p>SJIS is the premier outlet for the Scandinavian informatics research community that reflects both the legacy and the development of the discipline for well over 30 years. The journal defines a Scandinavian research tradition in terms of scope and topical areas. It welcomes different flavors of IS research and welcomes topics that are new and innovative. The journal is an important voice in the international community.</p>	<p>During my time as an editor, we reworked the aims and scope for the journal and developed the description of what characterizes a Scandinavian approach to IS research in terms of topics and research approaches. This was not to narrow down the pluralism of what was published in the journal, but to better communicate to potential authors our expectations of a submission that could fit the journal's scope. In my mind the developed aims and scope, topical areas, and research approaches worked quite well as a guide to define the criteria for a paper's fit with the journal.</p>	<p>SJIS should continue to give important contributions to the international IS community with a Scandinavian approach. The theoretical and methodological pluralism is important to continue and develop. Reflections, reviews and debates are important to create a living discussion about the discipline and its development. The collaboration with the annual Scandinavian Conference on IS (SCIS) is valuable to regularly connect back to discussions in the community and should continue to be developed.</p>
Bendik Bygstad	<p>It is the only journal in the world that covers the Scandinavian tradition in IT and IS.</p>	<p>The most important criterion is engaging with IS practice at the levels of the individual, organisations and society.</p>	<p>Perhaps it is a balance between maintaining the Scandinavian tradition and engaging with new topics and technologies. Personally, I miss good case studies of the large projects in both public and private sectors.</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Netta Iivari	It is a very valuable publication forum for 'Scandinavian'—to be interpreted as a state of mind, entailing qualitative, participatory, design oriented, critical—Information Systems research.	It is already some time ago when I was an editor, but at that time I think we tried to be open to studies having this Scandinavian state of mind, i.e., qualitative, participatory, design oriented, critical Information Systems research. Theoretical pieces were not excluded nor literature reviews, but quantitative studies, particularly those using some widely used theories one more time were not seen to fit with the journal. The topics were not prioritized, but studies addressing power, politics, organizational, cultural, social, political, societal aspects in my mind fit very well with the journal.	I think the journal should remain as it is: as a publication forum for 'Scandinavian'—to be interpreted as a state of mind, entailing qualitative, participatory, design oriented, critical—Information Systems research. Of course, some keywords can be added or removed, but generally being open to design and use, engagement research, critical research, social aspects are central.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Jacob Nørbjerg	<p>Focused on but not confined to a socio-technical perspective on IS development and use. Strong preference for, but not restricted to, qualitative methods and an interpretivist or critical stance.</p> <p>BTW: The new Aims and scope page nails it pretty well.</p>	<p>Apart from the obvious quality criteria (language, structure, proper literature review and theory, clear contribution): Can we 'see' the relationship between the human (or the organization) and the technology? Purely technology development papers, e.g., "managing complex network topologies" would be desk rejected outright.</p> <p>Purely theoretical or philosophical papers would be accepted as well, provided that they had some bearing on the journal's philosophical stance</p>	<p>More debate sections. They have been inspiring in the past. Ditto: SIs</p> <p>I also think that the journal has become more mainstream IS, i.e., with a focus on implementation/use rather than development—and the characteristics of the technology itself. The upcoming SI on artificial intelligence includes interesting examples of opening the black box of IT! Traditional positivist survey-type (or even econometric) papers have been accepted into recent SIs (see vol 33, issue 2). The papers were interesting, and on topic for the SI but it is a new development in SJIS.</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Christina Keller	As an information systems journal publishing relevant and rigorous research within the Scandinavian tradition, but not necessary performed in Scandinavia. The Scandinavian tradition means a focus on empirical qualitative or mix-method research within the behavioral, user-centered stream of information systems research as well as design science research and different forms of participatory design	The editorial policy and criteria when determining the submitted papers' fit to the journal was that they should be empirically grounded in mainly qualitative research, such as interview studies or case studies, but also mixed-method studies could be considered fit with the journal. A high degree of relevance and flawless rigor in applying research methods was necessary. Design science research fell into the scope of the journal. Theoretical-philosophical papers were considered if their implications had a high degree of relevance for researchers within the information systems community. During my time as editor-in-chief, a special issue on information systems in healthcare was published.	I would like the journal to keep its current aims and scope (see my answer on question 1) but strive to be a leading journal within this aim and scope. This means for example to have resources to publish more issues per year and to climb further up on different ranking lists. I would not want the journal to go in the direction of quantitative research or the economic stream of information systems research.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Margunn Aanestad	<p>Margunn Aanestad The Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems is a long-standing outlet for the IS community in the Nordic countries and for IS researchers elsewhere who share the orientation to empirically relevant and engaged IS research. Given the legacy of the Scandinavian traditions in systems development, it especially welcomes use- and user-oriented research approaches.</p>	<p>The papers should have empirical relevance, i.e., they should engage with practically relevant issues. Papers could focus on either a design or use context, with the level of analysis either towards a team, organization, or larger sector/society. Purely technical papers without a discussion of a use context, would be rejected as out-of-scope. The “Scandinavian” was not interpreted in a geographic sense, but as pointing to the Scandinavian tradition of systems development and its heritage of use- and user-oriented research. So, there could be some pushback (from reviewers/editors) to articles that relied on managerial perspectives and descriptions of organizations instead of basing this on empirical investigations of actual work</p>	<p>I think it has a good orientation in terms of aims and scope (which I think should remain general and open). There seems to be a “moral turn” of the IS community (and more generally of research fields that engage with ‘the digital’) and SJIS is well positioned to be one of the welcoming outlets for this kind of research. For instance, the recent SI on Responsible AI is an example of these kind of debates over technology’s role, consequences and way forward. You may discuss whether the editorial team should make a plan to actively encourage other special issues in order to build further on such themes.</p> <p>It is great to connect with the SCIS/IRIS conference and actively source submissions. Also, I would wish that</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
			SJIS would be more known, read and used in the wider IS community - and some form of visibility in, e.g., ECIS and perhaps ICIS might be considered, or Special Issue collaboration with other European chapters (parallel to the earlier SI for Australasian IS).
Samuli Pekkola	SJIS is a good quality regional journal, which tend to think it's a top-notch journal. For example, sometimes the reviewers (and editors) treat the articles in the similar manner as for MISQ. This results (or optimistically may result) in a lack of papers. This perception has remained at least from my tenure ten-years ago	The paper had to be about IS. Either the topic/context had to focus on Scandinavia, or be written by Scandinavians. At some point, we were desk rejecting about 50% of the papers because they were CS/SE papers with very little connections to IS. The term "theoretical and methodological pluralism" in the call for papers was originally written during my tenure.	SJIS is topically a good journal. Its visibility is very small and it is not indexed (as far as I know). This makes the journal less attractive. The aim and the scope are adequate.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Keld Bødker	<p>I see SJIS as an international IS journal with a Scandinavian/ North European perspective. That means that the journal positions itself in the international IS community with an emphasis on trends and debates in the North European</p>	<p>We continued the mission to publish Scandinavian IS research and thus to present Scandinavian IS researchers to the international IS community. A significant ambition in my years was to become internationally recognised. As part of this, we spend quite some efforts in getting the journal assessed and included in international assessment surveys.</p> <p>I remember a tension between these goals. On the one hand we wanted to encourage young Scandinavian researchers to publish, but also realised that it was often a hard struggle to get high quality papers through a lengthy review proces. I especially remember that we fought with lengthy review cycles. It took quite some effort for an editor to get a review cycle of less than six months. This also meant that it was difficult for a young researcher</p>	

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
		<p>(a PhD student) to embark on a submission proces. We typically had a session on the IRIS where the SJIS EiC presented the paper and encouraged young researchers to submit their work. A typical question was: how long time does it take to get my paper published? From this discussion it became clear that for SJIS to get young researcheres/PhD students in time limited positions to submit high quality papers it was necessary to have shorter review cycles</p>	<p>IS is a very broad and diverse field, and the risk from this is of course that the SJIS papers become too diverse and too little related. However, the risk involved with a specialisation is also clear—the fields chosen with the specialisation might “dry out”—calling for a change in topics covered (also challenging).</p> <p>I would recommend staying with a broad mindset.</p>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Rikard Lindgren	With a dual focus on the design and use of information technology, SJIS publishes research that explores how different classes of systems impact individuals, organizations, and industries. The journal has a qualitative origin indeed but is still known for its openness to a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches. This has helped it to get attention from IS researchers worldwide, which in turn yielded publications that influenced areas such as design science and user involvement in profound ways. In terms of quality, the best publications are comparable to those papers included in some of the less prestigious journals from the AIS basket of eight.	We collectively embraced the idea that the quality requirements of SJIS had to be as demanding as those stipulated by journals such as EJIS, ISJ, and JIT. Our ambition was to publish excellent research articles with a strong theoretical orientation that paid careful attention to the material aspects of the technology under study as well their implications for human activities and relations	The dominance of the AIS basket of journals makes it complicated for other IS journals to strategize and position themselves. Indeed, for SJIS to find its way forward, there are at least two challenges that must be resolved: 1) The number of high-quality submissions has to increase to reduce the burden of transforming questionable ideas into publishable findings. Here I would like to see, for example, serious attempts to devise innovative models that help potential submitters to think of SJIS as a possible outlet for their work.

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
			<p>One such model could preferably present a novel review routine, which promises to radically reduce the cycle time, e.g., from twelve to eight weeks. 2) The existing submission formats have to be scrutinized to see what value they actually bring to the table.</p> <p>Given the increasingly competitive journal landscape, it might be a good idea to carefully assess, for example, whether the research article should still be regarded as the most important format, or if it rather makes sense to even replace it somehow. Such considerations can possibly lead to innovation and alternative submission opportunities for prospective SJIS authors.</p>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Bjørn Erik Munkvold	<p>The description of the journal on the AIS home page here fits well with my personal view of the journal, and also seems not to have changed since my involvement.</p> <p>Thus, rather than paraphrasing on this, I just highlight what I think are the key characteristics of the journal:</p> <p>“The journal publishes research on development and use of information systems, and related organizational and societal issues. Research published in SJIS typically draws on the Scandinavian research traditions, emphasizing engagement with the field. As this line of research is not confined by geographical boundaries, the term “Scandinavian” in the title of the journal should be interpreted metaphorically</p>	<p>The focus of the journal as expressed above very much guided the editorial policy in “my days”. In the editorial screening of the papers, we checked for topical relevance (IS development and use, organizational and societal issues). For empirical papers we would also consider whether the field work presented would have relevance for Scandinavian IS research, although certainly accepting submissions with data from outside Scandinavia. While theoretical and methodological pluralism was indeed welcomed, we typically would be hesitant to accept papers that were pure replications of hypothesis testing studies, considered to bring limited new insight (e.g., studies based on application of TAM). Further, purely technical papers not based on any design science research perspective would typically be desk rejected.</p>	<p>I must admit I have not actively followed the development of the journal in the later years, and thus I do not have a strong position to reflect on this. But as already indicated I think it is important that the journal remains as a ‘flagship’ in publishing research rooted in the Scandinavian tradition on IS development and use (e.g. participatory design). In this, I also consider it important to continue to solicit and invite contributions from leading scholars outside of Scandinavia, who take an interest in such research. This could also be important for the further standing of the journal, as it is currently ‘under pressure’ from UHR to be degraded to level 1 in Norway if we cannot provide sufficient argument</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
	<p>rather than literally. Indeed, SJIS frequently publishes articles by researchers residing outside the Scandinavian countries. Theoretical and methodological pluralism is welcomed by the journal.”</p> <p>I think the journal serves an important role in publishing research related to the strong Scandinavian IS research tradition, and maintaining the focus on this in the global IS community.</p>	<p>The SJIS debate forum was revitalized in 2005 (the issue before I came onboard), with a debate on socio-theoretic accounts of IS and the problem of agency. In addition to contributions from senior Scandinavian scholars this included invited contributions from leading IS scholars such as Geoff Walsham and Wanda Orlikowski. This was followed up with a debate forum on IS research and design science research research, again also inviting contributions from outside Scandinavia (e.g. Alan Hevner).</p> <p>For the regular articles (and also special issues) published, this included a mix of articles from authors within and outside Scandinavia. A specific example of using the editors' network to strengthen the journal's 'global reach' was a</p>	<p>or it being counted as among the top 20 % leading journals in our field. Making more active use of the SJIS advisory board could perhaps here also be strategic.</p>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
		<p>special issue edited by Julie Fischer and Karlheinz Kautz on IS research in Australia, relating this to the Scandinavian IS research tradition (Vol 19(1)).</p> <p>An important source for your historical editorial will then also be the invited 20th SJIS anniversary paper by Lars Mathiassen and Peter Axel Nielsen on “Engaged scholarship in IS research: The Scandinavian case”, in which they reviewed all research papers published in SJIS thus far (Vol. 20(2)).</p>	

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Matti Rossi	A journal dedicated to advancing a distinctly Scandinavian view of information systems research and practice.	We had updated the editorial policy just before my time. The idea was to appeal for an international author body, while keeping the Scandinavian tradition of reflection and importance of empirical work that is performed together with the practitioners. We tried to be quite open and inclusive about this as the field was going through an expansion as digitalization was encroaching on all walks of life.	A Scandinavian view, where participation and practitioner views are seen as more important than some theoretical language games is important. I would like to see a turn into the critical development tradition, as we have been quite uncritically emphasizing all kinds of new digital services without thinking of their negative consequences to quality of life or to work. I believe that the Scandinavian tradition of IS research is very well suited for looking at new forms of work and AI. There should still be provocations and debates and not only finished papers.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Karlheinz Kautz	At the time of the SJIS' inception in the late 1989 there were few opportunities for researcher from non-English speaking countries or non-Anglo-Saxon or North American Universities, nor were there many opportunities to publish critical, qualitative research including action research which at the expense of orthodox rigor offered an outlet to share such research. The SJIS while focusing on Northern European research and researchers and with firm roots in the then predominantly emancipatory and egalitarian approaches to (social) science and society provided such an open forum and from the distance and over twenty years ago since I was an editor of the journal, I think that these are still the guiding values of the journey. The journal	During my time in the middle of the first decade of this century, the editors supported by review teams, aspired to assess and evaluate submission according to the above briefly stated values of offering interesting research inspired by a Nordic set of values while applying quality measures for different kinds of research as they had been available for quantitative research which was not that often submitted to the journal, but even more so had become available for qualitative, interpretive and action research.	In the future, I believe that the SJIS has to continue to play an important role when it comes to providing space to research which deviates from the current mainstream topic of orthodox analytics and algorithmic decision making and management based on advanced statistical-mathematical models and huge, often biased data sets and manifest itself as a voice of those who want to support the development and critical assessment of safe, responsible, and sustainable information systems in the context of continued digitalization, cybersecurity and privacy and continuously emerging new digital technologies. Given the internationalization of the journal, I

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
	evidenced its openness and has come a long way since I as the first editor who was not born in the region was appointed to 'co-coordinate' the journal.	During my time in the middle of the first decade of this century, the editors supported by review teams, aspired to assess and evaluate submission according to the above briefly stated values of offering interesting research inspired by a Nordic set of values while applying quality measures for different kinds of research as they had been available for quantitative research which was not that often submitted to the journal, but even more so had become available for qualitative, interpretive and action research.	would also like to see more space for research works that deviate even more from the established theoretical groundings of our discipline.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Ola Henfridsson	<p>SJIS is an inclusive and open-minded journal that reports research that engages deeply with field settings. Even though it nowadays rightly embraces a variety of different types of methods, the journal's preference of this line of work, which is close to the experiences of actors and stakeholders (including managers) is still a distinguishing feature of the journal as manifested in how it runs through much of the published work across time.</p> <p>This makes the journal quite unique in information systems. If I would be asked to identify a similar journal, my choice would be Information & Organization.</p>	<p>In the days I was involved in the journal, we reflected a lot on the meaning of "Scandinavian" in the title of the publication name. As a result, we decided that we meant something metaphorical rather than literally merely publishing work by Scandinavians or research done in Scandinavia. As I wrote in a short editorial at the end of my tenure (Henfridsson, 2006), it was important for the journal to revitalize its role in the broader, international community. As Scandinavian researchers had started to reach out and take more active part on the international scene, it was vital that the journal cultivated its scope to meet this challenge.</p>	<p>I think that the journal should continue making itself known as an open and inclusive journal. It needs to continue serving the Scandinavian market of researchers, as well as making sure that it seeks to provide a home for high-quality research with field work at its heart. Also, great to continue the tradition with debate section and topical special issues.</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
		<p>Consider that, at the time, the increasing openness of top-tier journals to qualitative research in as different versions as action research, case studies, design research, and ethnography meant that the SJIS faced competition from other publication outlets. So, at the journal, we wanted to solicit papers from across the world that “emphasized engagement with the field” in one form or another.</p>	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Eric Monteiro	<p>My view of SJIS is partly a reality and partly a fantasy (or aspiration). I think of, and have advocated for, the qualifier “Scandinavian” to be understood metaphorically rather than literally as a geographical area.</p> <p>While inclusive, I thus think of SJIS as having a profile that regularly (but certainly not exclusively) publish work building on, engaging or quarrelling with the “Scandinavian” tradition, which includes a tradition of underscoring the role of users in participatory modes of technology development.</p>	<p>It’s been some years, but as I recollect it there were not really much editorial policies in play. We were just coming out of a system where the editors had (more than) enough just making sure the papers were managed in a sound way, with no papers falling through the cracks of what previously was a email-based coordination effort. In terms of fit with journal, we received very few non-Scandinavian submissions so we treated everyone pretty much the same, evaluating for normal standards of merit. There were a few, typically from places far from Scandinavia, who did not fit any notion of IS so got filtered out.</p>	<p>For the future, I would like SJIS to be a relatively open/ generic IS journal but with a spin, i.e., with a recognizable profile. This profile would be that alluded to above. In line with such a vision, I would welcome more non-Scandinavian authors publishing “Scandinavian” work, thus cultivating and extending a network of IS scholars committed to (some version of) the Scandinavian tradition. There are more than enough generic IS outlets out there so no need to also make SJIS perfectly bland.</p>

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Jesper Simonsen	SJIS is one of the most important journals for me to follow and publish in. SJIS represents IS research mainly from a Scandinavian/Nordic perspective and I dedicate my own publications in SJIS whenever I think the most important readership audience and dissemination of my research is within the Scandinavian/Nordic research and practitioner communities.	I was an Editorial Board member of SJIS 1998-2004. Attached is the editorial policy from then.	Keep a strong focus on having (also —along with the broader international readership) a Scandinavian/Nordic perspective and readership, including relevant publication possibilities for PhDs and young researchers.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
Peter Axel Nielsen	It is a unique journal. It started by representing a window to Scandinavian IS research and it still does. Nowadays the authors come from all parts of the world, but there's still a journal that remains with a Scandinavian/Nordic outlook.	I was an editor with the journal in its second period. At the time the editors were changed every five years at the same time. It was still early days and the journal was trying to get a hold of Scandinavian IS research—effectively it was Nordic IS research. We were closely related to the IRIS seminar. This was before the Scandinavian Conference on IS was started. We did spend much of our effort in soliciting manuscripts that came up through the IRIS seminar. During this second period, the debate section was launched and had impact on current research concerns. The editors were occupied with searching for new and interesting research rather than just waiting for the researchers to submit. At the time it was also an important editorial line not to become like the North	It is a very difficult task to raise the awareness of the journal. There are so many more journals today compared to when we started the journal in 1989. I hope to see that the journal will not mimic the prestigious journals (e.g., basket journals) in terms of the editorial policies, reviewing styles, and the whole sense of what research is in our community.

Müller et al.: The Anatomy of Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description of SJIS</i>	<i>SJIS' editorial policy</i>	<i>SJIS in the future</i>
		American journals. We insisted (maybe at times a bit too much) to set us apart from the North American scene.	
Lars Mathiassen	SJIS is a peer-reviewed AIS journal, organized by the Scandinavian IS Community, anchored in a Scandinavian tradition, and open to international submissions.	As co-founding editor, we were initially focused on publishing quality papers from the Scandinavian IS community as a peer-reviewed complement to IRIS (the longstanding annual research seminar without peer-review). As the journal stabilized, it was included as an official AIS journal with a broader goal as expressed in response to 1) above.	Based in the US for the past 20 years, I now have less interaction with the broader Scandinavian IS community, but continue to work with many Scandinavian IS researchers. As such, I see a continued need for the journal and with no need to change its current trajectory.

Table A1. Answers from former SJIS editors-in-chief

