

## WITH EYES TOWARD THE FUTURE

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*Tomorrow's world approaches, so let us listen and learn,  
let us explore and question and understand, let us go forth and discover the wisdom to guide  
great Spaceship Earth through the uncharted seas of the future.  
Ray Bradbury, 1983*

Being the editor of *QRBD* is a role I never envisioned as part my future. When my friend and mentor Kaye McKinzie encouraged me to attend The International Academy of Business Disciplines in 2018, I was a bit hesitant. Save my colleagues at The University of Central Arkansas, I knew no one who would be attending and in truth, I was not particularly keen on taking on another organization. At the time, being accustomed to larger international conferences and being a rather reserved person, I envisioned yet another steady stream of business cards, handshakes, receptions, struggling to read nametags, discussions of upcoming research projects, gossip about who is leaving which school...and why, and explaining the AACSB Bridge-Program and how it is possible to have an Ed.D. and still qualify as Scholarly Academic.

--Thanks Kaye!--

Becoming a part of the IABD/*QRBD* family has turned out to be one of those lucky decisions that transforms one's life not just on the professional level but the personal as well. Academia can be a highly isolated world. Rarely do we work in office with others who share our expertise/interests as most schools only need (or can tolerate) one of us, and for the most part, we spend the bulk of our time talking to 18- to 25-year-olds who stay the same age while our calendars just keep rolling along. As academics, finding work/life balance can be challenging and conferences provide one avenue to finding fellowship and comradery to help us celebrate the victories and push through the challenges and defeats.

Not to say that other organizations do not provide the same, but IABD is an organization of present and future friends. Along with quality research presentations and workshops, one finds friends new and old catching up on families, hobbies, and simply one another. In 2020, I myself was in a serious accident which left both my personal and academic futures in jeopardy. (There was also some virus going around that put a serious crimp in how we all did things...you may have heard about it.) Although I was the newbie, I was moved by how IABD members reached out to me with encouragement, support, and most importantly, genuine concern for how I was, all the while they too were pushing through difficult times. (I really should not have been surprised knowing that many of these individuals have been together in IABD since the first conference back in 1989!) After two years online, we came physically back together in 2023, and like any good friends, it seemed like only yesterday that we had been together. IABD recognizes the importance of investing in one another beyond just the career to make sure that we continue moving forward as whole individuals.

As we look toward the future and *QRBD*'s upcoming second decade, it is appropriate to take a moment to look back and the successes we have had. First, *QRBD* has been led by one person!

Margaret Goralski served as Editor of this journal from day one, overseeing a total of 33 issues...an unheard-of dedication level in academic publications. Our current Senior Associate Editor Charles Lubbers was an author of the first article published in *QRBD*. The IABD president who made this journal possible, Paul Fadil, is still president and is still our biggest cheerleader. These are just a few of the countless examples of the supreme dedication to and affection for IABD and *QRBD* that have been shown over the past decade and will no doubt continue as we move forward.

As I begin this new phase of *QRBD*'s history, our future looks bright. Authors will still find our strong outlet for their work and readers will still find outstanding articles that both inform and inspire. Still, keeping an eye on the future does require changes to keep our momentum going. Starting with this current issue, we have transitioned to using EasyChair rather than email as the means of both submitting and reviewing papers. Especially with the demands on reviewers, utilizing a centralized submission system is the best way to keep track of the review process as well as communicate with authors and reviewers alike...along with tracking our submissions for those all-important acceptance rates and analytics. Speaking of reviewers, we will in each issue spotlight a reviewer who made outstanding contributions to the current issue. Quality reviewing takes time and dedication and, while conferences often reward reviewing, journals do not...that changes today.

Another specific addition you will notice is the acknowledgement of undergraduate researchers on papers. The IABD conference is a perfect place for undergraduate students to present their research and *QRBD* will follow suit by being a permanent outlet for their work. As many accrediting boards across campus are highlighting both student impact and student research, I think it important to draw attention not only to these young scholars but also to the experienced faculty who are willing to take on the additional challenge of undergraduate research. You will find special notation on the Table of Content indicating undergraduate researchers.

As I begin my tenure as Editor, I envision some other changes to continue our journey forward. Historically, we have provided print copies of the journal at no additional cost; however, in 2023, this is an outdated practice and one that can be concluded to reallocate funds to more productive areas. I want to see active participation on our editorial review board increase and to add three associate editor positions to the board by the end of the year (I will be coming for you soon!). While we provide quality content and have a positive "Journalytics" rating by Cabells, I want to see our quality acknowledged by other services such as Elsevier's Scopus ratings. Finally, I want to publish information beyond research studies to include academic essays, book reviews, and teaching exercises. There are many avenues in which we can make an impact and I know that working together *QRBD* can have a highly impactful future in both familiar and new ways.

Much like *QRBD* itself, the articles within this issue all have an eye toward the future. First Naylor and McKinzie (2023) offer us a glimpse into how increased access to broadband internet can and does impact our society, both on the local and global scales. Next, Tinsley, Abegaz, Mady, & Yan (2023) show how banking processes can be improved through the use of Python driven automation. Finally, Boylan, Bradtke, & Hiles (2023) join the return-to-work debate by showing the benefits of working from home to the accounting industry. All of these authors have taken their forward vision to give us all information to consider as we continue to consider ways in which we can impact our society today as well as tomorrow.

As *QRBD* now looks toward its second decade, we do so with fresh pathways and opportunities. I look forward to the contributions you will make to the body of knowledge and I challenge you to push yourself to think of new ways that you can contribute. *QRBD* was started by its authors as a platform to showcase their discoveries and will continue to be a reflection of our interests, wisdom, and understanding as we travel on into our future.

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# QRBD

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