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Operational Research (OR) involves the application of scientific methods to the management of complex systems of people, machinery, materials, money and information. It seeks to produce an understanding of operational problems and to develop models which will enable the consequences of decisions to be investigated. OR methods have already had widespread application and success in many areas of business, industry and government, and its use is rapidly increasing in social systems and in the international arena. The European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) is intended to strengthen these advances by publishing high-quality, original papers that contribute to the practice of decision making, within and beyond Europe, irrespective of whether their content describes an application or a theoretical development. A special call is made for case study papers showing OR in action in firms and other organizations. Mathematical or computer-science contributions should be capable of being used in the foreseeable future.

EJOR has regular and feature issues. Almost all issues contain a leading invited review explaining the developments in an OR topic over the past five years to the general OR reader. In addition to the other five types of contribution described in the Instructions to Authors at the end of this issue, EJOR includes OR software news (including ORSEP) and reviews of books published recently. For further information, see the Instructions to Authors at the end of each issue. Authors of contributions are asked to read these instructions before sending four copies to any of the editors at the address above.
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