From the CSBIGS Editor

It is a pleasure to issue Volume 2 Number 2 of CSBIGS (Case Studies in Business, Industry and Government Statistics). We hope that you will enjoy reading the cases in this issue and will get a chance to work with the datasets graciously shared by the authors. CSBIGS encourages the use of its cases for teaching, training or other purposes with proper acknowledgment.

The policy of the journal is indeed to provide readers with the data used in the cases, masked when necessary. Please consider contributing a case to CSBIGS; if you would like to write a case but have no data, please contact us as we might be able to provide a dataset. Instructions to authors are available on the CSBIGS web site at www.bentley.edu/csbigs.

This issue contains a wide variety of cases, relying as in the previous issue on data from four different continents, Africa, America, Asia and Europe. The areas of application are very diverse, ranging from healthcare utilization in South Africa to a study of typeface legibility.

You will also have the opportunity to read about the effectiveness of search engines for a small business and to find out how to capture and analyze online data about television sets. A Kohonen map of Vietnamese provinces with a view to understanding living standards is to be found, as well as a study of factors that influence voting choices. You will also discover a data mining approach to the analysis of a well-known German credit data set. Enjoy!

We would like to express our gratitude to members of the Editorial Board for their hard work and commitment to CSBIGS, to all the authors, reviewers, and those who help format and post CSBIGS. Thanks are also in order to Bentley University for supporting the journal.

Last, but not least, should you wish to join the editorial team, please contact us and attach a résumé; your help is needed and will be very much appreciated.

Please do send us e-mails of colleagues whom we should add to the CSBIGS mailing list. The more we get the word out, the more CSBIGS is cited and the happier we all are!

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Dominique Haughton Editor-in-chief, CSBIGS <u>dhaughton@bentley.edu</u> <u>csbigs@bentley.edu</u> January 2009