

- 8 -

Information System Variables are the form of presentation and the information set presented. Performance Variables (the performance measures) in this research are Time and accuracy. Bertin defines performance in terms of time only. But accuracy also is an important dimension of performance to IS researchers and designers.

Step (3) of a four step theory-building strategy may be interpreted in the ~~form~~ following functional form

$$P = f(Q, I, F)$$

where  $P$  is a performance (measured by the time required to extract the answer to a specific question from an information presentation),  $Q$  is the question to be answered with the information,  $I$  is the information presented, and  $F$  is the form in which the information is presented.

The proposed studies, the three variables ( $Q, F, I$ ) hypothesized to affect performance  $P$  with information presentations will be systematically investigated two at a time in Yugoslav environment and the ~~results~~ <sup>obtained</sup> ~~will be~~ compared with those obtained in the USA (Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana). Studying two the variables two at a time will allow the effects of each to be better isolated and removes the potentially confounding ~~effects~~ <sup>effects</sup> of varying all three variables simultaneously. The studies will help to confirm ~~the~~ theory regarding the use of information presentations as decision aids. The relationship among the studies with respect to the independent variables is illustrated by the following Triangle