EDITORIAL – Looking Back and Forward in Information Systems Research

On the behalf of the editorial team, I am delighted to introduce you to Vol. 7 of the iSCHANNEL. We are proud that we gathered a selection of articles that deals with established and emerging topics in information systems research. This creates the opportunity of 'looking back and forward' in the field.

In the past years, we went a long way to develop theoretical frameworks deployed as analytical artefacts to understand the intersection between society and information systems. The accumulated knowledge is being revised to reflect novel insights, but also changes in the empirical scene. The current call for research requires the mobilisation of the multidisciplinary legacy of research in information systems to examine emerging themes in the everyday life. By leveraging a student's perspective, this issue aims to inspire a wider research agenda.

The first article 'Joe Blogg's Hacking Supercomputer', Abhishek Sanyal tackles the timely topic of cloud computing. The author deploys the ISACA's Business Model for Information Security and Backhouse's Structures of Responsibility to address the causes of malicious attacks, for example, on Wireless Encrypted Networks. This article provides a critical evaluation of how these attacks are shaping information systems security. The author concludes with mitigating measures and directions for further research on cloud computing.

The focus on timely topics in information systems is also pursued in the second article, 'Green Information Systems – What can we contribute?' Florian Allwein challenges in the deterministic view of information systems in addressing the novel topic of 'green information systems'. This deals with the role of information systems in the context of environmental sustainability – e.g. greenhouse gas emissions. The socio-technical tradition of IS research is proven appropriate – for instance, Ciborra's concept of bricolage (2004) – to develop a comprehensive research agenda of 'green information systems'.

In the third article, Ivan Landabaso presents a critical review about 'Perspectives on e-Government project implementations and impacts'. This is a mature topic in information systems research. The author explores how divergent views of development – from emphasis on the political control to human capabilities and aspirations – populate the field of information systems. Furthermore, the author explores some of the dialectical tensions in prior research and how further research in information systems can benefit marginalized groups in society.

In the fourth article 'Perspectives On Knowledge Management – A socio-technical view', Apoorva Varma and Claus Heintzeler synthetize the extensive literature on information systems and knowledge management. The authors develop an integrative framework on how technology can mingle with existing organisational context in order for individuals to use it effectively. This article provides a repertoire of avenues for further research about long-lasting questions in the knowledge management literature.

The topic of Web 2.0 is inevitable. The fifth article is about 'Web 2.0 - New Perspectives: Social, Political and Economic Impact'. In her article, Yin Qian discusses the implications of the interactive platform of Web 2.0 for research on information systems that ventures into ideas of technology as an extension of human beings. The author takes a 'fresh' direction to the debate by studying the societal, political and commercial aspects in a demarcation from the 'technology' itself.

The last article is a case-study of a mobile digital service through smartphones. Heintzeler, et. al. present 'The Value-add of Mobile Technology on Established Value Chains: A case Study in the Charity Service'. The findings from interviews and secondary data lead to a discussion about the design of mobile digital services. The authors tackle aspects of users' privacy and security settings to add value in the broader context of established service value chains.

The contributions vary from knowledge management to cloud computing and 'green information systems'. Such combination of topics is matched with the diversity of theoretical lenses and the nature of the articles (e.g. theoretical and empirical) that characterises the field of information systems. Nevertheless, one aspect binds these 6 articles together: intellectual rigor and curiosity. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

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Editor-in-Chief