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Editorial: Information Systems—A Truly Global and Diverse Research Discipline

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Editorial

Information systems (IS) has become a global and diverse research discipline that contributes strongly to global markets, to organizations, and to individual interactions alike. IS research has grown into a global community as the three regions of the Association for Information Systems (AIS) (America (region 1); Europe, Africa, and the Middle East (region 2); and Pacific Asia (region 3)) show.

The IS discipline's global profile is a true achievement because the community has its roots in several geographic regions with diverse methodological and educational backgrounds and specific economic, socio-political, and technological constraints. Even so, diverse approaches to IS research around the world remain, and the community must recognize this diversity as an opportunity to study information technology from a variety of angles and to jointly develop innovative solutions to contemporary problems.

JITTA, one of the official AIS journals, recognizes the diverse nature of IS research and education and has made important editorial changes to stimulate and contribute to the global discourse:

- Carol Hsu from National Taiwan University has been appointed Co-Editor-in-Chief, so representatives from all three AIS regions are now on the editorial board, which affords *JITTA* a truly global profile and reach. Carol replaces Mark Srite, who stepped down at the end of his term after having served for six years. We thank Mark for his meritorious service to the journal.
- We now continuously publish accepted papers, with new papers appearing on the AIS eLibrary as soon as they are ready for publication. This change further reduces publication times and facilitates the disciplinary discourse. Issues will close three times a year—in April, August, and December—and will each include the papers published during the previous four months.
- Sandra Beyer from the University of Liechtenstein has been appointed executive editor in charge of handling the operational aspects of the submission and review process to ensure its quality and timeliness.

We are confident that these measures will contribute to helping establish *JITTA* further as an important outlet of IS research.

The current issue acknowledges IS research's diverse and global profile. The first paper, "Managing Risk Areas in Software Development Offshoring" by John S. Persson from Aalborg University and Bjarne R. Schlichter from Aarhus University, presents an interpretive case study of how managers perceive and mitigate the risk areas in offshoring software development. In concordance with extant research, the authors find that managers perceive and mitigate most of the areas of offshoring risk but that, in the risk area of task distribution, managers perceive high levels of uncertainty about their tasks and see equivocality and coupling across sites as risk mitigation rather than risk-taking.

The second paper, "Understanding the Role of Theory in Instrument Development: An Examination of Strengths and Weaknesses of Discriminant Validity Analysis Techniques" by Damon E. Campbell from Millsaps College, John D. Wells from University of Massachusetts Amherst and Craig D. Parks from Washington State University, focuses on the role of theory in construct validity, specifically discriminant validity, and examines some popular methods with which to support this type of validity when using cross-sectional data. The authors highlight these techniques' applicability by analyzing a sample dataset in which they theorize two constructs to be highly correlated.

I am grateful to all of the authors, reviewers, and editors who contributed to this issue and also thank all of the colleagues who have contributed to developing the journal's profile. I hope *JITTA*'s consequent accounting of the global and diverse nature of IS research and education will lead to positive and dynamic developments in the IS discipline.

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