
Foreword

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Biographical notes: Dr. Binshan Lin is the BellSouth Corporation Professor at the College of Business Administration, Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He received his PhD from the Louisiana State University in 1988. He is a seven-time recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award at LSUS. He received the Computer Educator of the Year by the International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS) in 2005, Ben Bauman Award for Excellence in IACIS 2003, Outstanding Educator Award by the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute (SWDSI) in 2004 and Emerald Literati Club Awards for Excellence in 2003. He has published over 130 papers in refereed journals and currently serves as an Editor-in-Chief of eight academic journals.

1 Introduction

There is a growing demand to provide a thorough understanding of electronic finance along with its foundations to meet industry and academic needs. The *International Journal of Electronic Finance* (IJEF, ISSN 1746-0079 Print; ISSN 1746-0077 Online) aims to satisfy these needs by providing rigorous, timely research occurring at the forefront of electronic finance for both academia and the industry.

The *IJEF* is dedicated to design, development, management, implementation, technology and application issues in e-finance. The *IJEF* aims to help professionals working in this field, academic educators and policy-makers to contribute, to disseminate knowledge and to learn from each other's work through cutting edge thinking in e-finance. The international dimension is emphasised to overcome cultural and national barriers and to meet the needs of accelerating technological change and changes in the global economy. The *IJEF* is an outstanding outlet that e-finance research could take shape of its own and results could be shared across institutions, governments, researchers and students and finance industry as well.

2 Journal orientation

The *IJEF* is an international journal designed to bridge the contributing academic disciplines and link academia with the industry and other finance community. The central mission of *IJEF* is to publish original, well-written, self-contained contributions that elucidate novel research in e-finance which advance the field fundamentally and significantly.

The objectives of the *IJEF* are to develop, promote and coordinate the development and practice of electronic finance. The *IJEF* is an outstanding outlet that e-finance research could take shape of its own and results could be shared across institutions, governments, researchers and students and industry as well.

- up-to-date, leading edge research to keep you ahead in the area of e-finance
- practical guidance on ways to achieve great effectiveness and efficiency in e-finance areas
- in-depth analysis and interpretation to advance our understanding and provide a framework for further study of e-finance and
- international coverage, which allows us to share information and knowledge and insight on a worldwide scale.

Published quarterly, the *IJEF* publishes original and review papers, technical reports, case studies, conference reports, management reports, book reviews and commentaries.

3 Subject coverage

The *IJEF* is a refereed journal of original scholarship. We invite submissions of paper bearing upon issues relevant to the journal's editorial aims. Although the possible set of paper topics is large and we encourage submission on any area within the scope of e-finance, the following areas are particularly suitable (but are not limited to):

- Applications of AI in Finance
- Automated Purchasing
- Computerised Automated Trading Systems
- Consumer Value Creation in Mobile Banking Services
- Coordination in E-Finance Networks
- Cultural, Social and Political Issues in E-Finance
- Customer Channel Management in E-Finance
- Data Mining and Data Warehousing in Financial Institutes
- E-Auditing
- E-Banking
- E-Cash Flow in SCM
- E-Finance and Social Exclusion
- E-Finance for Banking Strategy
- E-Finance Impacts on Market Efficiencies, Effectiveness and Transparency
- E-Finance in SMEs

- E-Finance Performance Measurement
- E-Finance Process Models
- E-Finance Workflows Management
- E-Finance: Privacy and Trust
- E-Finance: The Electronic Revolution
- E-Finance: Where Do We Go From Here?
- E-Government Auditing and Security
- E-Lending
- E-Payment Strategy and Implementation
- E-Procurement Channel Management
- E-Procurement in SCM
- Ethical Issues in E-Finance
- Industrial Financial Chain Management
- Interactive E-Finance Study
- IT Risk Analysis and Operational Risk
- IT Investment and E-Business
- Knowledge Management in Financial Institutes
- Managing Online Trading Risks
- Mobile Banking: Hope or Hype
- Mobile Payment Services
- Multi-Channel Banking
- Neural Network Applications in Financial Markets
- Network ROI
- Online Auction Strategy
- Quality Management in E-Finance
- Reengineering Administrative Process via E-Finance
- Security and Privacy in E-Finance
- Strategic Sourcing in Banking
- Strategies to Motivate Brokers Adopting Online Trading
- XBRL Model

4 In this inaugural issue

We received an overwhelming response (more than 130 paper submissions) from leading academic and industrial researchers to our call for papers for the inaugural issue of *IJEF*. Due to the constraints of space, we decide to select the best eight papers for the inaugural issue. The inaugural issue will hence be Volume 1, No. 1, 2006.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Inderscience's staff for their high-quality professional assistance during the pre-publication process and to our editorial team and board members for their continuous support during the journal's planning phase. We also wish to acknowledge a very large number of colleagues from all across the world who have made the *IJEF* a reality; they have contributed enormously to its research and development, right from concepts inception to the final paper form. A sincere "Thank You" to all.