
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Panagiotis Georgiadis is a Professor in the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications of the University of Athens. He has been a regular member of the Senate of University of Athens (1992–1994), Director of the Computer Systems & Applications Division of the Department of Informatics (1994–1996) and Secretary General for Information Systems by the Greek Ministry of Finance (1997–2002). He lectures on Information Systems, Web Applications and E-Government topics. His research interests include distributed systems, IT management and e-government. He has authored more than 50 papers and contributed in a number of research projects.

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The third issue of Vol. 3 of *International Journal of Electronic Governance* features a number of regular research articles covering a range of topics, from data archiving and user-centered design for e-government services to e-voting and e-politics, with research and case studies from a number of countries.

In *Long-term Archiving of Digital Data on Microfilm*, Schilke and Rauber report on a feasibility study analysing encoding techniques that allow digital data to be saved onto microfilm, testing data recovery as well as cost issues, with important consequences for the management of public sector applications that need to archive data or documents for long retention periods of 100 years or more.

In *Making Usability Affordable in the Design of E-Government Services: User-Centred Design For Public Sector Websites*, Tariq presents a systematic attempt to analyse the way in which theory of User-Centred Design (UCD) can contribute to

addressing the usability issues of government websites. Research findings confirm the need to transfer UCD theory to the practice of developing e-government services.

Renaud and Cockshott attack traditional problems of e-voting protocols in *Handivote: Checks, Balances and Voiding Options*. The authors propose an electronic voting system based on the use of the telephone infrastructure to maximise participation and accessibility, and explore the processes included in the Handivote proposal, which mediate against interference and fraud.

The web presence of political parties is discussed in *Initial Objectives behind US and Swedish Political Parties' Web Presence: Communication Professionals' Perspectives*, by Opoku and Williams. The authors investigate the objectives underlying the set-up of political party websites, using cross-national case studies. Findings reveal a number of variations along some typical categories, thus contributing new empirical material into the understanding of cyber politics.

Finally, in *E-government: From Actors to Interrelations*, a technical paper that concludes the articles department of our current issue, Fotinou and Pavlidis adopt a systems approach of e-government, to offer a unified framework of analysis, identifying entities and relationships and also taking into account social and technological aspects.

In our supplementary columns, with the help of our editorial assistance team as well as contributing authors whose work we would like to warmly acknowledge, you are invited to find an up-to-date selection of news and information of interest to our readership. The IJEG Conference Calendar includes an extended list of e-governance-related conferences to take place during 2011, whereas our News and Briefs column presents a number of highlight reports concerning developments such as the Africa4all parliamentary initiative to connect African Parliaments and citizens through innovative ICT applications; the CROSSROAD project for roadmapping ICT-enabled governance; as well as highlights from the 2nd International Conference on Electronic Participation (ePart 2010), which took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 29 August–2 September 2010.

With our sincere thanks to all of this issue's contributors, we invite you to peruse the contents of IJEG Vol. 3, No. 3.