Editorial: Information systems and management in the digital era

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Biographical notes: Eldon Y. Li is a University Chair Professor of the Department of Management Information Systems at the National Chengchi University in Taiwan. He was a Professor and the Dean of the College of Informatics at Yuan Ze University in Taiwan during 2003 to 2005. He served as a Professor and the Coordinator of MIS programme at the College of Business, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, USA, during 1982 to 2003. He received his PhD degree from Texas Tech University in 1982. His current research interests are in human factors in information technology (IT), strategic IT planning, service science, software engineering, quality management, and information and systems management. He is the Founding Editor of *International Journal of Electronic Business*, *International Journal of Information and Computer Security*, and four other related journals published by Inderscience, Switzerland.

Information technology (IT) is considered as a commodity in today's business world similar to water and electricity (Carr, 2003; McFarlan and Nolan, 2003). It is a necessary resource for an enterprise to maintain its sustainability. Meanwhile as a form of IT application, information system (IS) is an integrated system containing various subsystems within an enterprise. The field of IS study encompasses disciplines in social science, computer science, information and communications technologies (ICTs), management, multimedia, etc. IS professionals are required to possess multidisciplinary skills, including innovation, communication, technology, people, management, and valuation skills. Their common mission is to turn ISs into organisational values. One must keep abreast of the advances of knowledge, methods, phenomena, and technologies in the field, and applying them to managing an organisation. The topics of knowledge are numerous given the dynamic nature of the field, including: agent/intelligent/knowledge-based systems; [bio]medical informatics, social informatics; cloud computing, services, outsourcing management; collaborative work systems, social networks, human factors; data mining, knowledge discovery, data warehouse, ontologies; database architectures/applications, decision support systems; design science and service science; e-commerce, virtual business, media, communications; emerging ICTs, software process/project management, workflow management; IT globalisation, inter-organisational systems; strategic IT valuation, information economics, competitive advantage, among others. This journal intends to provide a platform for IS professionals, business educators, and policy-makers to contribute know-hows, to disseminate

information, and to learn from each other regarding these topics. It emphasises the international dimension in order to overcome cultural and national barriers and to meet the needs of accelerating technological and organisational changes in the global community.

IJISAM published double-blind refereed articles. It is an authoritative reference containing potential and working ISs theories and applications as well as emerging issues of interest to professionals and academics. The objectives of *IJISAM* are to develop, promote and coordinate the development and practice of ISs theories and practices. It focuses on design, implementation, analysis, application and management of ISs. We invite original and review papers, technical reports, and case studies that engender synergy between academic/theory and business/practices.

In closing, 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. Our most sincere thanks go to all the authors who share their knowledge and research outcomes with the readers of this inaugural issue. Without them, the debut of this journal would not be possible. Finally, to our readers around the world, we thank you very much for using this journal as your source of information and hope you find it helpful in your research endeavours.

References

Carr, N.G. (2003) 'IT doesn't matter', *Harvard Business Review*, Vol. 81, No. 5, pp.41–49.

McFarlan, F.W. and Nolan, R.L. (2003) 'Why IT does matter', *Working Knowledge* [online] http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/3637.html (accessed 6 March 2014).