
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the University of Athens and a Research Fellow of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media. His research interests include digital communication, electronic governance, social media and digital games.

In this opening issue of Vol. 7 of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, we are glad to present our readership with a collection of research papers covering a broad spectrum of subjects, including success factors for e-government implementation, mobile government strategies, e-parliament services, anti-corruption and transparency, ethnic digital divides, technology adoption as well as lightweight implementations of local government services.

In the first paper of the issue, appropriate strategies and factors for e-government implementations, with a focus on mobile government are discussed. In *Implementing Mobile Government in Jordan: Strategies for Success*, Al-Masaeed and Love discuss m-government as a delivery channel for governments to provide timely information and services ubiquitously to residents, businesses and other government departments. The authors focus on the case of Jordan, a country belonging to the early adopters of m-government that has launched an e-government mobile portal in 2011, and apply a two-phased mixed methods study based on focus groups and survey research to identify the elements of a potential roadmap for implementing mobile government with success and user acceptance.

Olasina, in the paper that continues our present issue, focuses on a different area in the e-governance agenda that of using electronic governance as an instrument in the fight for better public management. In *E-Parliament Services as Tools for Anti-corruption and Transparency*, the author takes stock of the dissatisfaction of the public on the performance of political institutions such as the National Assembly of Nigeria (NASS) and discusses this against e-parliament efforts in other countries using ICT for citizen engagement in legislative functions, fighting corruption and strengthening representative democracy. A number of factors of e-parliament adoption for anti-corruption are explored using a modified Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology model and a number of perceptions and attitudes of legislators and citizens are brought forward, with the overall study findings reflecting on the theory of technology adoption.

The paper that follows, *Gaps Close, Gaps Open: A Repeated Cross-Sectional Study of the Scope and Determinants of the Ethnic Digital Divide*, moves on with the discussion on the adoption of ICTs into a different area. In this paper, Lissitsa and Lev-On present results of a repeated cross-sectional study examining how groups in multi-ethnic states adopt and use information and communication technologies, with focus on the magnitude and the determinants of the digital divide between Jews and Arabs in Israel as a case study. The study examines socio-economic and socio-demographic factors correlated to internet usage in general and usage of social media in particular, based on data collected between 2008 and 2010 by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics Annual Social Survey, in order to demonstrate the multi-dimensionality of the digital divide phenomena and show how digital divides transform over time: as access differences between Jews and Arabs gradually diminish, a second-level digital divide of social media usage actually widens.

Last but not least, in *Simple Low Cost Online Monitoring System for Municipal Waste Collection Authority of under Developing Countries*, a short technical paper that concludes our current issue, Alam brings us back to the basic realities of trying to apply ICTs to local government functions in countries that strive to develop. The author brings forward the problems that local authorities face with the collection of municipal solid waste, which are made even more acute due to factors such as increasing population, low budgets and conventional approaches that do not allow these tasks to be monitored and managed effectively. The paper reports on the development and testing of a low-cost system prototype for monitoring municipal waste collection, which is based on a combination of RFID, SMS, web service and PIC micro-controller technologies to ensure contactless collection of field performance data and automated monitoring of the overall waste collection process, whereas an analysis of required facilities and comparative costs is also provided.

Volume 7 of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* will continue with alternating regular and special issues on topics from our subject coverage. At the same time, the call for papers for our special issue on '*Challenging Government: e-Participation and the Social Web*', guest edited by Dr. Darren Mundy, University of Hull, UK and Dr. Tobias Bevc, University of Augsburg, Germany and planned for publication in 2015 is currently open (more details available on the IJEG Call for Papers webpage), whereas some more special issues will also be announced in the months to come.

On top of that, we are constantly working on expanding as much as possible the coverage of our regular columns on news and briefs and conferences of interest to our readership. As of the last two issues of our 2013 volume, the IJEG News and Briefs column regularly hosts a presentation of some selected newly published book of interest to the electronic governance research and practice community. At the same time, our Conference Calendar column strives to accommodate as many as possible forthcoming conferences, workshops and other academic and research events organised worldwide on topics related to our subject coverage.

Please be invited to peruse for your interest the research papers, news and briefs and conference calendar of this issue of IJEG, and stay close to us for more updates and developments.