



and political wills. This approach promises potential as an instrument to critically portray the status quo of open government and highlight eventual improvements needed at the policy making level.

Taking this thread on to broader governance issues, in ‘Decentralisation and governance in IoT: Bitcoin and Wikipedia case’, by Sedrati, Stoyanova, Mezrioui, Hilali and Benomar, the authors focus on the ways in which the ‘decentralised’ structure of contemporary internet continues to raise questions on power, governance and democratic processes online. Bitcoin and Wikipedia, as two characteristic examples at different levels, are used as cases for studying decentralised decision-making processes and bring forward some policy inconsistencies that are not in line with democratic and consensus-based governance principles. The authors discuss some further improvements in the quest for more democracy and equity in the digital environment.

The research paper concluding our current issue, ‘Differential roles of usage patterns of social networking sites in political learning’, by Park, draws on results of a national survey of more than 1,000 South Korean adults to explore whether usage of social networking sites for news information is positively associated with knowledge about political issues. Removing aspects of SNS use not linked to political expression, this research suggests that the association between SNS use and political knowledge is contingent upon usage patterns and political reasoning.

During the months that follow, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues, with respective calls for papers to be announced. In this respect, we are glad to announce a forthcoming special issue on *Safeguarding Democracy and Human Rights in the Digital Age*, guest edited by Prof. Sokratis Katsikas, Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus, and Dr. Vasilis Zorkadis, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Greece.

At the same time, we invite all of our readers and contributors to check our call for papers page at <http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg> for upcoming calls for submissions to IJEG.

Alongside these developments, in our ongoing quest to expand the subject coverage of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, and especially so across boundary-spanning interdisciplinary topics that reach out to bridge electronic governance with public value innovation, and so much so innovation for the sustainable development goals agenda, be it through digital government, open government, public participation, social solidarity, humanitarian technology and innovation, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on emerging topics. And we continue to provide our readership with a coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader Electronic Governance constituency, in our News in Brief and Conference Calendar columns, respectively.

Leaving the floor to our authors for their research contributions, we welcome you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief and conference calendar that follow.