
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Research Fellow at 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.



We gladly welcome our readers to the third issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* for 2020, featuring a number of research papers that extend across our subject coverage and span the journal's international reference.

The opening paper of our issue, 'Impact of digital divide on e-government use intention: moderating role of socio-demographic factors', by Gupta, is focused on analysing the impact of digital divide on e-government use intention of citizens in India. Considered the facets of divide in terms of access, skills and innovativeness, the study embarks to explore effects of socio-demographic factors in the relationships between these digital divide aspects and the intention to use e-government services. Access divide, of all three aspects, is found to have the strongest impact on e-government use intention. At the same time, all socio-demographic factors investigated except income are found to have a significant moderating role on the impact of digital divide on the intention to use e-government services.

Staying in the same geographical and thematic context, Pandey and Suri, in 'Collaboration competency and e-governance performance', focus on collaboration in the context of e-governance, taking stock of e-governance initiatives in developing countries with limited success, and reflecting upon lack of strategic collaboration within and across branches of government. In line with relevant literature, the authors find that, while e-governance users want their concerns to be addressed, project implementers continue struggling with inter- and intra-organisational collaboration issues. These findings are liaised with the evolution of the India National e-Governance Plan and Digital India programme, which have been placing increasing emphasis on collaboration within government. The research outcomes feed a discussion on further exploring the links between collaboration competency and e-governance performance.

Moving on to themes from the broader electronic governance agenda, the paper that follows, 'Corporate social responsibility: governance through a conceptual blockchain framework', by Srinivasan et al. investigates the feasibility and associated benefits of using blockchain technology for the management of corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds which have to be deployed in government-mandated areas of social sector development. The authors focus on the specific problems of current ways of managing CSR activities, and propose a blockchain-based framework to bring forward improvements in terms of accountability of public officials, transparency of the overall process, and better enabled citizen involvement in the form of pervasive participation.

In our concluding paper, 'Information and communication technology and cyber conflict: rethinking the role of the United Nations in world peace', Joshua et al. move on to an even broader context in which governance issues manifest themselves. The authors take stock of current developments in cyberwarfare units deployed by governments worldwide, and discuss the difficulties that UN organisations face when coping with these new warfare instruments. In this respect, the authors discuss how the role of the United Nations in world peace may be re-thought in light of these new conditions. The authors especially mention the problems that arise when the laws and norms that UN has been applying to armed conflict are difficult to apply for cyberconflict, thus giving rise to needs for a new model of global coordination and rule-setting processes with respect to cyberwarfare.

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 Professor 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.