
Editorial

Volume 4, issue 1 has been designated as a special issue for the 2006 Conference on Information Science, Technology and Management (CISTM 2006) held at Chandigarh, India. Following the conference select authors were invited to further develop their papers. Following subsequent rounds of reviews and revisions, we are pleased to present four interesting papers for this special issue.

The first paper, "The Effect of Cultural Differences on Attitude, Peer Influence, External Influence, and Self-Efficacy in Actual Online Shopping Behavior" is authored by F B Tan of AUT University, and L Yan and C Urquhart of the University of Auckland, New Zealand. The authors present findings of a study where online surveys were conducted in two distinct national cultures to investigate how three dimensions of national culture may moderate the impact of attitude, peer influence, external influence, and self-efficacy on online consumer's intention and actual transaction. The findings suggest that individualism amplified the effects of attitude on intention to transact. At the same time collectivism appeared to amplify the effect of peer influence on intention to transact. The study has some important bearing on targeting products in certain markets and lays a good foundation for further research in the area.

The second paper "Evolving IT Governance Practices for Aligning IT with Business - A Case Study in an Australian Institution of Higher Education" is by Jyotirmoyee Bhattacharjya of the University of Sydney and Vanessa Chang of Curtin University of Technology, Australia. The study examines how IT governance is implemented through a number of structures, processes, and relational mechanisms in an institution of higher education and discusses its evolving characteristics. The study presents some interesting insights into the relationship between IT governance implementation and IT-business alignment.

The third paper "Losing Managerial Discretion: The Unexplored Risk of Collaborative Information Sharing" is by Frances Fabian of University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina, USA and Gurpreet Dhillon, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA. The authors argue that other than the presumed competitive intelligence risks associated with sharing proprietary intelligence, the literature has not addressed how the short term

operational performance imperatives of collaborative information sharing may create a level of information transparency that can hamper managerial discretion, and thus strategic performance over the long run. The paper investigates this gap in the literature and presents a conceptual framework that would facilitate further understanding of the concepts.

The fourth paper "A Review of Hybrid Replica of Character Recognition Practices" is by Indu Chhabra of Panjab University, Chandigarh, India and Chandan Singh of Punjabi University, Patiala, India. The authors locate and implement the knowledge informants capable of inferring the shape of character object and recognizing it into appropriate character class through Simplified Fuzzy Adaptive Resonance Theory Map. In a final synthesis the authors show experimental results supporting their approach.

The four papers present interesting perspectives on information, science, technology and management. We hope that the research presented here will lay a good foundation for further work in this important area.

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