It is my great pleasure to write this preface as we are approaching the successful completion of Volume 3 and it has been three years since the launch of the journal. IJEIS has now established itself firmly in the Management Information Systems field for its research in enterprise information systems. ERP has become much more important as companies are becoming global, in terms of market and operations. Many popular ERP vendors have been successful in their business and helping manufacturing and services clients with their productivity and overall competitiveness. IJEIS has become a great reference source for both ERP vendors and users. Researchers constantly refer to IJEIS as a prime source of information for the design and implementation of ERP systems. I am pleased to report that IJEIS has emerged as the premier journal in enterprise information systems.

This particular issue has five articles that deal with organizational modeling, the past, present, and future of enterprise resource planning, the impact of enterprise systems on organizational control from a human machine agency perspective, evaluating ERP implementation, and defining information system success in France. A brief review of these five articles is presented in the following paragraphs.

Organizational modeling is concerned with analyzing and understanding the organizational context within which a software system will eventually function. The article, “Patterns for Organizational Modeling,” by Kolp and Faulkner proposes organizational patterns motivated by theories intended to facilitate the construction of organizational models. These patterns are defined from real world organizational settings, modeled in I* and formalized using the formal Tropos language. Additionally, the article evaluates the proposed organizational patterns using desirable qualities such as coordinability and predictability. The research is conducted in the context of Tropos, a comprehensive software system development methodology.

Business needs have driven the design, development, and use of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems. Intra-enterprise integration was a driving force in the design, development, and use of early ERP systems, but increased globalization, intense competition, and technological change have shifted the focus on inter-enterprise integration. Current and evolving ERP systems thus reflect the expanded scope of integration, with greater emphasis on things like supply chain management and customer relationship management. The article, “ERP: Past, Present and Future,” by McGaughey and Gunasekaran explores the evolution of ERP, the current status of ERP, and the future of ERP, with the objective of promoting relevant future research in this important area. If researchers hope to play a significant role in the design, development, and use of suitable ERP systems to meet evolving business needs, then their research should focus, at least in part, on the changing business environment, its impact on business needs, and the requirements for enterprise systems that meet those needs.
Enterprise systems are widespread in current organizations and seen as integrating organizational procedures across functional divisions. An enterprise system (also known as enterprise resource planning – ERP system), once installed, seems to enable or constrain certain actions by managers and users, which have an impact on organizational operations. Those actions may result in increased organizational control, or may lead to organizational drift. The processes that give rise to such outcomes are investigated in this article, which is based on a field study of five companies. By drawing on the theoretical concepts of human and machine agencies, as well as the embedding and disembedding of managerial and user actions in the system, the article, “The Impact of Enterprise Systems on Organizational Control and Drift: A Human Machine Agency Perspective,” by Ignatiadis and Nandhakumar argues that control and drift arising from the use of an enterprise system are outcomes of the processes of embedding and disembedding human actions, which are afforded (enabled or constrained) by the enterprise system.

An ERP system is an integrated software solution, typically offered by a vendor as a package that supports the seamless integration of all the information flowing through a company. Business information systems is an area of the greatest significance in any business enterprise today. ERP projects are a growing segment of this vital area. The objective of customization in ERP implementation is to achieve a fit between the ERP system and the process that the system supports. Widespread literature review has been done to study the issues in ERP implementation. Customization is found to be the major annoyance in most of the ERP projects. Literature review also shows that the AHP is the preeminent slant among the various methodologies applied to ERP projects in the past for prioritizing the attributes. Hence, Parthasarathy and Anbzhagan, in their article “Evaluating ERP Implementation Choices Using AHP,” have applied the analytical hierarchy process (AHP) to a framework for evaluating ERP implementation choices. The upshot of the study is the identification of various customization possibilities for ERP implementation. This study is meant to help managers think about the various feasible customization options available to them. The application of AHP to the framework is exemplified and the epitome of findings is discussed. Future research work that can be done in customization is also indicated.

The objective of the article, “Defining Information System Success in France,” by Agourram, Robson, and Ingham is to explore how IS success is defined and perceived by a group of people in France. The results show that culture does influence the perception of IS success. The study has many implications for both academic and practice communities. The results are especially important to multinational organizations that standardize IS in different cultures, including France. The research case is a multibillion-dollar Canadian multinational organization that decided to standardize an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in all its worldwide subsidiaries.

Authors are encouraged to publish in IJEIS. It has wide international coverage and readership. IJEIS has an excellent peer-review system that, with the aid of the Internet and WWW, enables timely feedback on articles submitted and hence reduced overall lead-time for publication. IGI Global is one of the premier publishing houses, known for information management books and journals, and has an excellent and professionally qualified staff to produce an outstanding quality print version and WWW version of the journal. IJEIS appeals to distinguished academicians and practitioners from around the world to constantly improve the scope and content of IJEIS to reflect changes in the field.

I am grateful to all the associate editors and editorial review board members for their continued support in reviewing articles and advising on the scope and future development of the journal. Finally, I would like to thank all the authors of this issue for their excellent contributions.
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