

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Christopher G. Reddick, Department of Public Administration, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX, USA

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age* (IJPADA). This journal has a mission to examine the impact of information technology (IT) on public and nonprofit organizations. Through its mission, IJPADA examines the impact of IT on reforming and changing public and nonprofit organizations. This journal compares the adoption of IT in the public and nonprofit sectors in both developed and developing countries. IJPADA examines emerging and innovative technologies and their adoption in public and nonprofit organizations. This journal also examines differences in the adoption of IT in public and private sector organizations.

IJPADA is a unique journal because of its focus on general issues in public administration and IT research. Many of the existing academic journals examine electronic government (or e-government), or other specialized technologies, while this journal is very broad with its focus on the examination of IT for government and nonprofit organizations. This journal covers broad policy impacts of IT. It also covers important managerial issues on the developments of using IT to create more efficient and effective public organizations. This journal examines technology issues in the context of both developed and developing countries, as they experience unique differences that need to be studied. Finally, papers in the journal

represent cutting edge research in which other studies can be based upon their initial findings.

There are seven papers in the inaugural issue that represent innovative research from leading scholars in the field of public administration and IT. The first paper by Chen and Hsieh, examines issues with big data in government. Through this paper, these authors examine the opportunities, challenges, and strategies of big government data. As these authors note, big data have three features that are volume, variety, and velocity. These authors use a case study of Taiwan's E-Housingkeeping program. With the rise of mobile government and social media, the demand for data from government has become increasingly important. There is a demand for more personalized services and business analytics of data is a growth industry. Some of the challenges, noted by these authors, are training and resource issues. There also are issues of security and privacy in the implementation of big government data. This paper is important as it defines the issues associated with big data in the context of government use.

The second paper in the inaugural issue is by Anthopoulos and Fitsilis. These authors examine e-strategic management in the transformation of government policies. In this paper, there is the exploration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for strategic planning in national governments through the comparative case study method.

The results show that national governments are using strategic planning and ICT to manage change. Their findings show that these governments use ICT for performance improvement, open government, and general improvements in public service delivery. These e-strategic planning initiatives, started in the late 1990s, have been very dominant since then with such recent examples as Britain's T-Government and Obama's Open Government. This paper provides a unique and important contribution to the literature, since it addresses the importance of strategic planning for ICT development in government.

The third paper in the inaugural issue is by Karamagioli, Staiou, and Gouscos and it explores government spending, transparency, and the Internet through a case study of the Diavgeia project in Greece. The recent severe fiscal problems in Greece have forced the government to have an unprecedented level of transparency in government spending. This can partly be explained because of the deep distrust of politicians and government, in general, in Greece. The movement in Greece is part of a worldwide trend of using the Internet to create more open government. The idea is that greater transparency can increase civic engagement among citizens. The case study of the Diavgeia project represents one policy to strengthen accountability and engage citizens in government. The unique aspects of this paper are that it shows both the importance of open government for civic engagement, and the importance of the Internet as a tool to promote civic engagement.

The fourth paper in the inaugural issue by Ahn and Berardino examines, through a statistical analysis, Web 2.0 adoption by state governments in the U.S. These authors determine whether Web 2.0 adoption is different from e-government adoption. Unlike e-government, Web 2.0 applications such as Facebook and Twitter can be used more for political purposes. And unlike e-government, Web 2.0 does not have the barriers to entry and expense as traditional e-government technologies. The importance of this paper is seen through the application of factors associated

with e-government adoption, having some similarities and differences with Web 2.0 adoption in state governments.

In the fifth paper by Roy there is an examination of cloud computing with a specific focus on the adoption of this technology in governments across Canada. Cloud computing challenges the traditional notions of control found in public sector computing. This new type of computing shows the interdependence of government through mobile technologies. This makes government more accountable, and ultimately more efficient in its operations. The flexibility and scalability of cloud computing can create cost savings for governments. However, cloud computing requires a new mindset for government, since the data is outside of the normal control of government. This paper is unique in that it outlines the scope of cloud computing in the context of Canada, one of the most developed countries in e-government adoption.

The sixth paper in this issue is by Taylor, Gorham, Jaeger, and Bertot examining issues associated with IT and collaborative community services in public libraries in the U.S. These authors argue that public libraries provide access to local e-government for many citizens in the U.S. These public libraries meet the needs of communities since they offer free Internet access for citizens to get tax assistance, health information, and programs for new immigrants. More recently with the economic slowdown, public libraries Internet access has been used for job searches, social assistance and improving the quality of education and training. Libraries have been extensively involved in public service delivery through the use of the Internet. These authors examine data from a public library survey and case studies of select local governments, across the U.S. showing the importance of community collaboration through IT. This paper provides a unique contribution to the public administration and information technology literatures, since it shows the importance of public libraries for citizens that do not have access to the Internet, especially those in vulnerable and lower socio economic populations. The

public library for these individuals becomes a space for them to get access to these important government services.

The final paper in the inaugural issue is by Gong and Janssen and they examine the use of software and the implementation of legislation. There have been increases in the number of new laws and changes to existing laws that must be translated into software systems. For example, tax legislation can change on a yearly basis, which has to be translated into the software systems. These authors provide a case study of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization service using a knowledge-based approach to software implementation. In the public sector,

organizational changes in processes generally run against conservative approaches, which create a low acceptance rate of new technologies. Their case study shows that agencies tend to implement new software programs in response to political pressures. The unique contribution of this paper is that it helps researchers to understand the importance of e-government adoption within a political system, which is prone to resist change.

Christopher G. Reddick
Editor-in-Chief
IJPADA

Christopher G. Reddick is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio, USA. Dr. Reddick's research and teaching interests is in e-government. Some of his publications can be found in Government Information Quarterly, Electronic Government, and the International Journal of Electronic Government Research. Dr. Reddick recently edited the book entitled Handbook of Research on Strategies for Local E-Government Adoption and Implementation: Comparative Studies.