Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Trends in Applied IS Research

Pedro Isaias, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
Philip Powell, University of London: Birkbeck, London, United Kingdom
Miguel Baptista Nunes, Sun Yat-sen University, School of Information Management, Guangzhou, China

It is our pleasure to present this special issue of Journal of Electronic Commerce in Organizations. In this issue (Volume 15, Issue 2) we have selected five papers which represent a cross-section of research in areas of Information Systems that address technical and managerial issues. This special issue includes extended papers based on those that were presented at 9th IADIS International Conference on Information Systems 2016, which was hosted in Vilamoura, Algarve (Portugal) on 9–11 April, 2016.

Since its first edition in 2008, IADIS Information Systems conferences have offered the opportunity to participants to discuss current research within Information Systems. IADIS IS serves as a forum that gathers together researchers, practitioners, students and others working or studying in the field of the Information Systems.

The authors' contributions here embrace significant research topics and are intended to provide a current depiction of research across a wide spectrum of Information Systems while opening the way to future research work. The topics covered by papers published in this Special Issue include:

- Operational Decision Support
- Business Process Management
- Multi-Project Management
- Enterprise Resource Planning
- Improvement of Configurable Process Models
- Knowledge Management in Healthcare

The first paper in this issue by Thomas Keller and Bastin Tony Roy Savarimuthu, entitled "Facilitating Enhanced Decision-Support Using a Social Norms Approach" focuses on the notion that social norms restrict behavior of individuals either through obligation or prohibition of certain types of behavior. The study reported in this paper presents a social Business Process Management (BPM) approach, where obligation and prohibition norms are identified in the context of decision making. With this approach, social norms can be identified from business process execution instances which then can be presented to users so that they can improve the decision process.

The second paper, "Impediments to Effective Management of Project Interdependencies: A Study of IT/IS Project Portfolios", authored by Sameer Bathallath, Åsa Smedberg and Harald Kjellin investigates the complexities associated with managing project interdependence along the development cycle of a IS project portfolio. A study conducted using a qualitative approach and

semi-structured interviews with managers from four leading organizations in Saudi Arabia reveals three main categories of factors that amplified the difficulty of managing project interdependencies in big IT/IS project portfolios, such as: "insufficient understanding of human responsibilities in the whole portfolio", "unpredictability of the environment", and "technology barriers and constraints".

The third contribution by Pierluigi Zerbino, Davide Aloini, Riccardo Dulmin and Valeria Mininno entitled "Framing ERP Success from an Information Systems Failure Perspective: A Measurement Endeavor", presents a definition of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) success and the corresponding construct within an ERP systems success chain developed by the authors. The authors provide an ERP success definition across four dimensions, contextualized within the ERP background: process, correspondence, interaction and expectation. This definition combines an empirical and a theoretical approach, it involves all the most relevant dimensions of success in different aspects in time, it keeps into account ERP idiosyncrasies and, consequently, it integrates, and formally improves, existing definitions of ERP success.

The fourth paper written by Loubna El Faquih and Mounia Fredj, "Ontology-Based Framework for Quality in Configurable Process Models" proposes a quality framework for CPM (Configurable Process Model) which uses semantic technologies (ontologies and rule language) to create the syntactic verification and the semantic validation of CPM. The authors believe that by verifying and validating the CPM, it is possible to guarantee its quality in the modeling phase; it is important to identify and correct errors at this early stage (modeling stage), therefore it is possible to reduce maintenance costs and avoid dysfunctions in the deployment phase.

The last contribution in this issue by Hanife Rexhepi and Anne Persson entitled "Challenges to implementing IT Support for Evidence based Practice among Nurses and Assistant Nurses: A Qualitative Study" reports on the necessity of developing a consistent IT-based knowledge portal for different areas of knowledge bases in healthcare. This paper is based on a research project carried out in the Swedish healthcare system, with the purpose to examine the possibilities to develop an IT-based knowledge repository that needs to function as a single point of access to knowledge for healthcare practitioners in primary, secondary and municipality care.

These five papers examine areas of Information Systems in different contexts with distinct approaches and research methods. Further, they demonstrate the practical relevance of academic research in a variety of Information Systems contexts. The reviews of the relevant literature contribute to the theoretical grounding of these areas and the innovative empirical research in different contexts creates opportunity for the development of innovative findings.

To sum up, we would like to thank all who kindly contributed to this Special Issue.

Pedro Isaias
Philip Powell
Miguel Baptista Nunes
Guest Editors
JECO