

GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

Guest Editorial Preface

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Information systems play a crucial role in today's business. No matter what the sector is or the size of the organization, enterprise information systems can be seen as having a critical role in the enterprise strategy and in strategic business alignment. And it is so because information systems are enablers of many of the organizations' main concerns, including improved decision making, operational excellence, internal communication and basic support to business processes. From the viewpoint of knowledge, information systems and their tools are the cornerstones for the so called knowledge based organizations. In this scenario, organizations must face this new challenge by combining, in one hand, new management practices, and in the other, new technological tools.

In this special issue, we are glad to present five innovative works about how Information systems impact in organizations. The first paper by Martin Gibbs from Mayo Clinic, entitled "*A (New) Look at User Participation in an ERP*", is based on doctoral research and points out several key factors and implications for successful user participation in an ERP. These factors

can be grouped into integrated team approach, learning (individual and organizational), workload, expertise, commitment, decision making, competing resources, post-implementation user participation.

In the second article, entitled "*Emphasizing User Participation in Business Processes*", by Giorgio Bruno from Politecnico di Torino (Italy), PartiM (participation-oriented modeling of business processes) is presented. PartiM is aimed at emphasizing the participation of users by means of participation models. This contribution is important because users can understand what their involvement is expected to be by looking at their participation models, which are developed on top of collaboration models.

The third article, entitled "*ESEIG Mobile: an m-Learning approach in a Superior School*" by Ricardo Queirós and Mário Pinto from DI-ESEIG/IPP & KMILT (Portugal), presents an architecture to deliver uniform m-Learning content to students in a higher schools. The ultimate goal of ESEIG-Mobile is to standardize the delivery of e-learning contents.

In the fourth article, entitled "*A Framework for Understanding the Complementary*

Roles of Information Systems and Knowledge Management Systems”, by Sana Guetat from Le Mans University (France) and Salem Ben Dhaou Dakhli from Paris-Dauphine University (France), a framework that helps to understand the complementary roles of information systems and knowledge management systems is presented. This model constitutes an instrument which facilitates the description of the roles of the organizational knowledge management system located in the knowledge space and the organizational information system which belongs to the information space. Moreover, this framework demonstrates that the organizational knowledge management system and the

organizational information system play complementary roles within modern organizations.

Finally, the last article entitled “*From Data to Wisdom in the Global and Civilizational Context: The Cognitive Perspective*”, by Prof. Dr. Andrew Targowski from Haworth College of Business, Western Michigan University (USA), presents the model of comprehensive wisdom. This model is based on a study of information from a cognitive perspective and is applied for each of eight current civilizations: Western, Eastern, Chinese, Japanese, Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu, and African.

Ricardo Colomo-Palacios is an associate professor at the Computer Science Department of the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. His research interests include applied research in information systems, software project management, people in software projects and social and Semantic Web. He received his PhD in computer science from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (2005). He also holds a MBA from the Instituto de Empresa (2002). He has been working as software engineer, project manager and software engineering consultant in several companies including Spanish IT leader INDRA. He is also an editorial board member and associate editor for several international journals and conferences and editor-in-chief of International Journal of Human Capital and Information Technology Professionals.

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