EDITORIAL PREFACE

Arthur Tatnall, Victoria University, Australia

This issue begins with an article by Nilmini Wickramasinghe from RMIT University in Melbourne, Arthur Tatnall from Victoria University in Melbourne, and Steve Goldberg from INET Intl. Inc., Canada and is titled: "Understanding the Advantages of Mobile Solutions for Chronic Disease Management: The Role of ANT as a Rich Theoretical Lens". The article notes that in an environment of escalating healthcare costs, chronic disease management is particularly challenging, since, by definition such diseases have no foreseeable cure and if poorly managed typically lead to further, complicated secondary health issues, which ultimately only serve to exacerbate cost. This article focuses on diabetes as it is one of the leading chronic diseases and its prevalence continues to rise exponentially. Notably, the benefits of a pervasive technology solution for supporting superior self-care in the context of chronic disease are made especially apparent when viewed through the rich lens of actor-network theory and thus the paper underscores the importance of using ANT in such contexts to facilitate a deeper understanding of all potential advantages.

The next article: "Networks, Agents and Models: Objections and Explorations" is by Fabian Muniesa from the Mines ParisTech and Ivan Tchalakov from Plovdiv University in Bulgaria. This article is particularly interesting as it adopts the rather different approach of using a form of dialogue to investigate critical problems of the computational modelling of network topologies from the point of view of Actor-Network Theory. ANT proves particularly inspiring in reconsidering the tenets of quantitative research and computational methods in the social sciences, but translating insights from this perspective into operational models is problematic. In particular, the paper discusses the impetus of simulation and the inappropriateness of the distinction between agents and links. It is interesting to compare some of the ideas in this paper with those by Tas Adam (*A Petri Net Model for Analysing e-Learning and Learning Difficulties*) in the last issue.

Like the first, the third article also relates to e-health. It is by Manuel Zwicker from RMIT University in Melbourne, Juergen Seitz from DHBW Heidenheim in Germany, and Nilmini Wickramasinghe also from RMIT University in Melbourne. It is titled: "A Tale of Two Cities: E-Health in Germany and Australia". The article begins by noting that over the last forty years, the proportion of Gross Domestic Prod-

uct spent on healthcare by OECD countries has risen considerably and that reducing these expenditures as well as offering effective and efficient quality healthcare treatment has become a priority globally for healthcare. Technology and automation in general have the potential to reduce these costs; hence many countries are now looking at how to use information and communication technologies in general and e-health solutions in particular to address these challenges. This paper focuses on such attempts by two countries: Germany and Australia and provides an assessment of these two solutions. In the study ANT will be used to provide a rich lens to investigate the key issues in these respective e-health solutions.

The final article relates to the use of ANT to explore social websites. It is titled: "Innovation in Communication: An Actor-Network Analysis of Social Websites" and has been written by: Mohini Singh from RMIT University in Melbourne, Yogesh Dwivedi from Swansea University in the UK, Ray Hackney from Brunel University in the UK, and Konrad Peszynski from RMIT University in Australia. The paper analyses the dimensions of social websites, using the Actor-Network Theory, to investigate communication innovation. Social websites are also referred to as social network sites and social media sites which reflect technology, users, content and linguistic issues as heterogeneous combination of entities for interaction and communication via this media. This paper highlights emerging research issues on social networking sites as a future communication tool and possibilities for using actor-network theory to look at innovation in social communications.

A future issue of IJANTTI will look at various other socio-technical research methodologies with a comparison to ANT. Articles in this issue will also provide example of how these methodologies can be used. More article of this type will be welcome.

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IJANTTI

Arthur Tatnall is an associate professor in the school of management and information systems at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia. In his PhD he used actor-network theory to investigate adoption of visual basic in the curriculum of an Australian university. Arthur's research interests include technological innovation, history of technology, project management, information systems curriculum, information technology in educational management and electronic business. Much of his research is based on the use of actor-network theory. Arthur is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society and active in the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) as Chair of IFIP WG9.7 – History of Computing, Chair of IFIP WG3.4 – ICT in Professional and Vocational Education and a member of IFIP WG3.7 – Information Technology in Educational Management.