Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Digital Governance in China

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In the past two decades, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been increasingly used by governments at various levels in China to provide better services and engage citizens. Nowadays, the explosion of data brings us into the new era called "big data" giving governments opportunities to enhance public services and decision-makings. Under help of new technologies, like Internet of Things (IoT) and Cloud Analysis, governments in China devote themselves to the smart city development. At the same time, digital governance in China is facing various challenges, such as privacy protection, data security, digital divide, etc. All of these indicate the complexity of digital governance in China that opportunities and challenges co-exist.

This special issue aims to present recent theories and practices regarding China's digital governance adoption and development. The paper from Dr. Yuguo Liao concentrates on the use of social media, specifically the micro-blog "Weibo", by local governments, discussing how to attract target audiences and promote interaction. Dr. Liang Ma's study emphasizes on the digital divide issue in citizen use of digital government in China. Manuscript from Dr. Qinfeng Zhu et al. indicates the importance of citizen's Internet use in enabling governments to enhance public service delivery. Chenghan Ming et al. discuss the impact of service quality on users' satisfaction. The manuscript from Dr. Shihong Weng talks about the impact of citizens' online participation on government agenda setting. Dr. Wenxuan Yu and Chengwei Xu's article explore the factors influencing the adoption and diffusion of smart city in China. And, Dr. Wei Kang & Yang Wang provide a review of China's digital governance development in the past two decades. These papers cover different topics, helping readers better understand the current situation of digital governance development in China from different aspects, such as e-government, e-participation, social media, smart city, and digital divide.

Great progress has been made in China's digital governance development both in practices and theories attracting attention worldwide. And, challenges also exist which need to be well addressed. Thanks for the contribution of the authors of this special issue, which serves as an important piece helping readers to understand the latest research in China. To promote the development of digital governance, we expect more related researches to be done in the future.

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