

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Arthur Tatnall, Victoria University, Australia

The first article in this issue of IJANTTI: *Opening the Black Box of Leadership in the Successful Development of Local E-Government Initiative in a Developing Country* is by Johanes Eka Priyatma from Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia and Zainal Abidin Mohamed from the Graduate School of Management, Universiti Putra Malaysia. In the article the authors note that leadership has been identified as one of the critical factor in the successful development of e-government projects, and especially so in developing countries, but that empirical studies linking the outcomes of e-government projects and the role of leadership are very limited. Using the four moments of Actor-Network Theory's translation framework this paper describes the detailed actions taken by local leaders in the development of an e-government project. The paper argues that innovation translation provides an appropriate framework to trace and monitor how leadership has been practiced effectively.

The next article is by Antonio Diaz Andrade and Samuel Ekundayo from the University of Auckland Business School, New Zealand. It is titled: *Mediated Action and Network of Actors: From Ladders, Stairs and Lifts to Escalators (and Travelators)*. Comparing actor-network

theory with activity theory, the paper asserts that the coexistence of people and technology has been well recognised, and that while each theory provides analytical tools to understand the nature of the reciprocal action-shaping of humans and nonhumans, each puts the emphasis on different conceptual elements of human activity. This paper examines both activity theory and actor-network theory, considering their similarities and their differences, their limitations and their complementarities to trace the evolution of an ordinary artefact and examine its impact on human life.

This is followed by an article titled: *A Socio-Technical Study of the Adoption of Internet Technology in Banking, Re-Interpreted as an Innovation Using Innovation Translation*, written by Salim Al-Hajri of the Higher College of Technology, Muscat, Oman and Arthur Tatnall from the School of Management and Information Systems, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia. This article presents a re-interpretation of research done in the mid-2000s on the uptake of Internet technologies in the banking industry in Oman, compared with that in Australia. It addresses the question: 'What are the enablers and the inhibitors of Internet technology adoption in the Omani banking

industry compared with those in the Australian banking industry?’ The original study considered Internet banking as an innovation and used an approach to theorising this innovation that was based on Diffusion of Innovations and the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Given the socio-technical nature of this investigation however, another approach to adoption of innovations was worth investigating, and this article reports a re-interpretation of the original study using innovation translation.

The final paper: *Emerging Standardization*, by Antonio Cordella from the ISIG – Department of Management, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK discusses the dynamics associated with the implementation and deployment of an information infrastructure designed to standardize work practices.

The paper discusses the role played by local characteristics, contingencies, and practices in shaping a standardization protocol implemented to standardize work practices. Building on actor-network theory, the paper concludes that the standardization of work practices is the result of the dynamic interplay between technology and its users rather than the consequence of a planned and well-defined design project.

Two papers in this issue compare ANT with other socio-technical methodologies. More articles of this type are welcome and one or more future special issues are planned to deal with this.

Arthur Tatnall
Editor-in-Chief
IJANTTI