Editorial Preface

The Closing of the Year and a Call for a Single Citation Format

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As we close another volume year for the *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing* (JOEUC), I would like to thank those members of the ERB that have performed reviews this past year and my AE team for all their hard work and suggestions to the authors to be able to publish the best possible version of their manuscripts. At the time of this writing, over an 11-month period, JOEUC had 108 regular issue submissions (average of 9.8 article submissions per month). JOEUC has over an 86% rejection rate and a 4.6% acceptance rate for regular issue submissions, with the remainder of submitted manuscripts either under revision or first review.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the information systems community of researchers as Editor-in-Chief of JOEUC for the past three years. Other duties and time constraints are leading me to step down as Editor-in-Chief at this time. I would like to introduce the next Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Sang-Bing (Jason) Tsai is currently a Professor at University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Zhongshan Institute. Dr. Tsai has over 100 peer-reviewed published articles and extensive experience on Editorial boards, including having served as an AE for JOEUC and Journal of Global Information Management and two other journals. He is committed to continuing the goals of JOEUC and seeing this journal rise in worldwide rankings, especially Clarivate Analytic's indices. Please join with me in welcoming Professor Tsai to the Editor-in-Chief role and help support the continuing growth of JOEUC.

As my last act as Editor-in-Chief, I want to put forth a call to all publishing companies, universities, and organizations to create a common citation reference scheme. While some publishers share a citation method, such as APA, Chicago, or Vancouver, all too often there are differences in how citations are listed within the text and how they are presented at the end of the journal. While citation tools exist to help simplify converting from one citation format to another, too often mistakes happen when using these tools, and authors are required to spend many hours composing and verifying new citation formats in order to submit an article for review to a new journal. This time is better spent by authors/researchers in performing new research and writing new articles to make their findings available and usable to the world at large.

I ask that all publishing companies, from the large for profit publishers like Elsevier, Emerald, IGI, Springer, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley, among others, to organizational publishers like IEEE, ACM, and AIS, to university publishing groups like Oxford University Press, Indiana University Press, Colorado State University Press, University of Talca, and the many other university presses to come together and discuss a unified and common citation format. I will make suggestions as to how this should look, but this is a larger discussion that needs to be entered into and committed to by all publishers worldwide, in particular of academic research. Having a single common citation

format would not only benefit authors by enabling them to have a single format to follow regardless of publication outlet, but will also benefit researchers and other casual readers in understanding the elements of a citation and facilitate finding the relevant article or chapter or book or other material.

Understandably, citations take up space in the text, as well as at the end where they are listed, and publishers seek to minimize overhead costs by limiting the size or word count of articles published in their various journals and magazines. Therefore, I recommend that in text citations should use a numeric format. The number referring to the cited information source may be placed inside of square braces such as [1] or may be entered as a superscript such as [1]. Multiple references should be separated by commas and a range of 3 or more references should be separated by a dash such as [1,4,13] or [1,4,13] or for a range, in this case all sources from 4 to 9, [4-9] or [4-9], or combination [1,4-9,13][1,4-9,13]. The numeric format to refer to a citation's source takes the minimal amount of space within documents and does not unnecessarily add to word count. Either of these formats, square braces or superscript, is acceptable, but a single format should be agreed upon by the publishers. The next question is: should these numeric references be arranged in order of occurrence or enumerated alphabetically by author's last name? A single unified approach is needed. The most difficult method to work with from personal experience is the order of occurrence system, which requires authors to completely renumber all citations past a specific number whenever a new citation is added in the middle of the document (perhaps at the request of a reviewer or editor). Therefore, I strongly recommend using an alphabetic listing of all bibliographic sources at the end of the document that are enumerated alphabetically. This means that the first citation in an article is likely not to have the number 1, but it will make adding new citations much easier as well as improving the ability to locate if a specific author's works are being referenced within an article.

Regarding the format for the references at the end of the article, I believe that all authors should be listed for consistency starting with the last name of the first author followed by a space and then all initials, without any further punctuation, and then followed by last names and initials of all remaining authors. All authors should be listed, regardless of the number of authors to adequately credit the participation of any and all authors. For consistency, I recommend that all authors be separated by a comma and the last author's initials be followed by a period. The listing of all authors will also aid bibliometric research where authorship credit is often dependent on the total number of authors involved with an article. If authorship cannot be determined then either "source unknown" or "anonymous" may be used, but again the publishers need to pick a single means of representing an unknown source of authorship.

From APA and other formats that typically list the year of publication as part of the citation, which would be replaced by a numeric reference to the author's position amongst the other references, but still is commonly thought of as a way to distinguish between multiple works by the same author or authors. I therefore recommend that the year immediately follow the list of authors and a period be used to separate the year from the remaining parts of the reference. Because the references will be cited numerically, this eliminates the need for appending an alpha character, such as 2018a, to distinguish between works by the same author in the same year.

Next are details that help distinguish multiple works and give proper credit to the publishing company/organization/university. The article title should appear next, then a period followed by the full title of the journal. The article title may also be a chapter title for single chapters from within a book, followed by the book title. If a complete book is being cited, then the article title portion is dropped and the title of the book appears where the journal title is located. These represent the critical pieces of information, necessary to locate and read interesting, related, or desired sources of information.

Other information that may make it easier to locate the reference information and also request it via interlibrary loans: for journal articles include the volume number and possibly an issue number, and should certainly include the page numbers; for books and book chapters include the publisher and for book chapters should also include the page numbers or chapter number. The publisher's city, while included in many reference formats is unnecessary, as long as the publisher is correctly identified.

The above specify a proposed universal format for journal and magazine articles, book chapters, and books. Certainly, other types of resources exist like web pages, but the above is meant to get the publishers' conversation started. Agreement on other information resource formats should follow the general format agreed upon for articles, chapters, and books, but is the responsibility of the publishers. I include examples of the reference format for the articles [1-4,6,7][1-4,6,7] from a previous issue of JOEUC as an example, issue 1 of Volume 30 published in 2018, because the page numbers for more recent issues are not available at the time of this writing, and also a book chapter [8][8] previously published by the editor and a randomly selected book [5][5]. I have included both the square brace notation and the superscript notation for demonstration purposes, but in reality, only one of these should be used by all publishers.

Example citations:

1. Avdic A. 2018. Second Order Interactive End User Development Appropriation in the Public Sector: Application Development Using Spreadsheet Programs. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), 82-106.
2. Chang HH, Wong KH, Eng CJ, Chen SH. 2018. Consumption Value and Social Capital on Sense of Virtual Community Toward Value of Co-Created Information. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), 44-65.
3. Hsin Hsin Chang, Kit Hong Wong, Cheng Joo Eng, Shu-Hui ChenLi Y, Wang X. 2018. Seeking Health Information on Social Media: A Perspective of Trust, Self-Determination, and Social Support. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), 1-22.
4. Mattson T, Aurigemma S. 2018. Running with the Pack: The Impact of Middle-Status Conformity on the Post-Adoption Organizational Use of Twitter. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), 23-43.
5. Minsky M. 1985. *The Society of Mind*, Simon and Schuster.
6. Pauluzzo R, Geretto EF. 2018. Validating the EUCS Model to Measure the Level of Satisfaction of Internet Users in Local Banks in Italy. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), 66-81.
7. Walczak S. 2018. Editorial Preface - Health Information Security: Paper Records May Still Be a Good Thing. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing*, 30(1), v-viii.
8. Walczak S, Gregg DG, Borkan GL, Erskine MA. 2014. eImage: Elements and Effects of Positive Organizational Online Identity. *Handbook of Strategic e-Business Management*, Springer, 889-906.

While the above examples are a suggestion for a common unified citation format, again I need to stress that this should be a collaborative effort between publishers to determine and accept a single method of writing citations and references. May all your research be productive and have a positive effect on the world, may all your writing be stress free, and may all your reviews be performed in a reasonable time.

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JOEUC