

Editorial Preface

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Information Management and Future Digital Business: Assessment, Analysis, and Control

The COVID-19 pandemic, an outbreak of coronavirus disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the world population, has been threatening human lives time and again. To prevent the spread of the pandemic, the government has launched different policies such as national lockdowns, setting social distancing rules and restricting the people movement. The coronavirus (COVID-19) impact is being stroked by most of the businesses around the world in which officials and leaders need to keep their employee and customers safe. This concern leads to repositioning business operations and shore-up cash and liquidity. Besides, industries and businesses are encouraged to switch to remote work or move to e-business to interact with their clients. Since the COVID-19 accelerated the digital transformation worldwide, the question of “how to analyse, assess and tackle issues of global information management due to the COVID-19 outbreak and future digital business” is an important challenge for industries businesses to maintain their competitiveness in today’s digital market.

Therefore, the objective of this special issue is to encourage researchers to share their research outputs from theoretical, empirical, and practical perspectives to assess, analyse, and control the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on global information management and future digital business. This specific issue collected excellent papers of unpublished research of global information management and business digitalisation after the COVID-19 pandemic. Each paper underwent a double-blind peer review by independent, anonymous expert referees. After the reviewing processes, six excellent papers were accepted and are published in this issue.

The first paper is “Assessing Stability in the Relationship Between Parties in Crowdfunding and Crowdsourcing Projects During the COVID-19 Crisis” by Liu et al., which identifies the critical factors for increasing trust, commitment between project initiators and donors in crowdfunding and crowdsourcing platform. Considering the financial collapse from COVID-19, this paper applied the information processing technology to create the medium- and long-terms plan for improving the quality and sustainability of their relationship and the campaign success rates for social-economic development.

The second paper is “The Pandemic COVID-19 and Its Impact on Indian Agricultural Sectors: An Assessment of Farmers” by Mishra and Satapathy. This paper aims to examine the psychological impacts of the farmers in India during the COVID-19 outbreak. By conducting the interpretive structural modelling (ISM) analysis, the results show that most of the farmers have a good level of awareness in terms of “knowledge, attitudes and practices” in facing the challenges raised from the COVID-19 epidemic.

The third and fourth papers are “Can Government’s Direct Bailout Intervention Relieve the Crisis Sentiment in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic” by Guo & Ma and “Research on the Differences in the Value Correlation of Accounting Data Under the Background of COVID-19 – Comparative Evidence From China and Thailand” by Zheng et al. These two articles are related to the impacts of

COVID-19 on the stock market. In the fourth paper, the authors examine the relationship between stock turnover and the listed company's largest shareholder equity ratio in China and Thailand. In contrast to the fourth paper, the third paper focuses more on the stock market in China, which provides insight for government management to establish a robust mechanism to prevent and cope with the financial market crises during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the government-enforced lockdowns for preventive measures, the fifth paper entitled "Changing Digital Age in the Wake of COVID-19: How Does Humility Impact Virtual Leaderless Teams?" by Cho et al. proposed to explore the effect of members' humility and team environment within a virtual team rather than a physical team. The findings found a positive impact between humility and shared leadership regarding team performance and the reduction of team conflict. This work can facilitate virtual team cooperation in organisations to achieve business excellence under the COVID-19 situation.

In the final paper, "Towards Reviewing an Immediate Impact of COVID-19 on the Integrative World Economy: An Evolving Perspective," by Alankar et al., the authors focused on studying the importance of digital business practices and the global impacts of COVID-19 outbreak to different sectors such as travel industry, hospitality industry, financial sector and education sector. The efficient use of emerging digital technologies and resources can help the government and companies take responsibility for defining and generating immediate policy actions during new challenges.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought upon unprecedented challenges. The analysis and trends reported in the publication will become mainstream, meaning that the post-pandemic world will look and operate differently from the one before it. We look forward to our publication in 2021/22 and continued developing the journal's reputation in the information management and future digital business research community.