

Editorial Preface

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Volume 13, Issue 1 of the International Journal of Electronic Government Research presents five papers focusing on different themes starting with Government 3.0, e-government adoption, e-government accessibility and the role of information management in local e-government. In keeping with the theme of the journal, the papers encapsulate the international dimension of e-government by focusing on studies that represent state of the art developments in the field and consolidating established practices and research questions from different regions of the world.

The first paper by Taewoo Nam is entitled ‘Achievable Or Ambitious? A Comparative And Critical View Of Government 3.0 In Korea’. This study reviews the *Government 3.0* initiative through which Korea has pledged to upgrade and reinvent government. The author presents constructive suggestions for the Korean national e-government initiative on how it could be improved in a practically feasible way. The paper compares the government 3.0 initiative with government 2.0 as a precedent paradigm and national initiatives of other countries, and discusses how the government could overcome the challenges it may face. Being the leading country in the UN index for e-government, this study from Korea offers broader lessons for other countries that are planning a similar trajectory in their e-government strategy.

The second paper is authored by Isaac Kofi Mensah, Mi Jianing and Dilawar Khan Durrani and is entitled ‘Factors Influencing Citizens’ Intention to Use E-government Services A Case Study of South Korean Students in China’. This paper investigates the factors that influence the intention of Korean students in China to use e-government services. The authors use the Technology Acceptance Mode as a theoretical framework. Results of the study show that all predictors used in the study, Perceived Usefulness, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Service Quality, and Citizen Trust are significant positive determiners of Korean students’ intention to adopt and use e-government services. The study also indicates that Citizen Trust positively and significantly moderated the positive relationship between perceived ease of use, perceived service quality and intention to use e-government services, but failed to show any positive moderation effect on perceived usefulness and intention to use e-government services.

The third paper is entitled ‘Barriers to E-government adoption in Jordanian organizations from users’ and employees’ perspectives’ and is authored by Abbas Al-Refaie, Abeer Ramadneh and Nour Bata. This study examines the effects of five types of barriers; technology, organization, strategy, policy, and end-user barriers, and investigates their effects on E-government adoption in Jordan. The proposed research model and hypotheses are focused on testing both the general users of e-services and government employees’ perspective on adoption. The results of this study show that technology barriers offered the main obstacles to E-government adoption from both employees’ and users’ perspectives in Jordan.

The fourth paper is by Silas Formunyuy Verkijika and Lizette De Wet. Their study is entitled ‘Determining the Accessibility of e-Government Websites in Sub-Saharan Africa against WCAG 2.0 Standard’. This study assesses the conformance levels of government websites in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. The study examines which macro factors

influenced the accessibility of Government websites. The findings indicate that the majority of websites in SSA still have a lot to do to become accessible websites based on the WCAG 2.0 standards. Cross country analysis showed that three macro factors are associated with the accessibility of government websites in SSA, Development Index (HDI), Corruption Perception Index (CPI), and percentage of the active population (15-64 years). The results of this study highlight that countries with high HDI levels and low CPI levels tend to have websites with fewer accessibility errors compared with those for countries with high percentage of the active population.

The final paper in this issue is entitled 'The latitude of information management in local government - Views of local government managers'. This study is authored by Antti Syväjärvi, Jaana Leinonen, Ville Kivivirta and Marko Kesti and is empirically examining the changing role and latitude of information management in local e-government. This study found that the latitude of information management in the local government's management system and decision making is bound and influenced by the organizational frames, the administrators' and decision makers' competence, and the stakeholder relationships. The authors conclude that the overall role of information management in local government organizations is often unclear and the latitude of information management is narrow and fragmented.

The readers will notice that the studies reported in this issue raise several new research questions regarding the trajectory of e-government development in leading countries such as South Korea while confirming issues of e-government adoption elsewhere, which are already established in the extant literature. I hope readers will find the questions raised, arguments presented, and both the context specific and generic lessons that are highlighted in this issue of IJEGR useful.

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