

EDITORIAL PREFACE

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Welcome to the second issue of volume nine in the *International Journal of Electronic Government Research*. This issues offer the readers six papers that are very much focused on discussing how the variations in context influence e-government implementation and diffusion.

The first paper by Madison Ngafeeson and Mohammad Merhi is entitled 'E-government diffusion: Evidence from the last decade.' This paper examines e-government diffusion in the last decade across 192 countries to evaluate the current state of e-government diffusion from a global perspective. The authors argue that although various studies have recorded e-government projects across different nations, these studies have been quite isolated rather than focusing on a comprehensive global picture. The authors posit that evidence in the last decade show difference in e-government diffusion has continued to widen across countries. The paper explains how even within the same country, the country-specific effects account for most of these differences. The findings in this paper also suggests that even after almost a decade and a half of e-government implementation and diffusion, different geographic and country context still continue to have a major influence on the concept.

The second paper offered in the current issue of IJEGR is entitled 'State e-Government Portals in Malaysia: An Empirical Investigation' and is authored by Aria Asadi Eskandar and

Murali Raman. This paper takes a local level view of e-government diffusion and in this context examines the level of sophistication of e-government websites in the different states of Malaysia, as opposed to a national level assessment, both in terms of the breadth and depth of e-government service offering. The authors do this by examining state level implementation of e-government services in Malaysia. By using a predetermined instrument to assess the sophistication level of state government web portals, the authors consolidate different measurement items from the literature over the past ten years. Then, they analyze the website in thirteen states in Malaysia in relation to six different dimension measures of e-government service offerings, as prescribed by literature. The findings suggest that different State Governments in Malaysia demonstrate different levels of maturity in relation to the six dimensions measured. Once again, the results of this study shows that even within the same country, the implementation and diffusion of e-government can vary from state to state.

The third paper is by Thomas Kohlborn and Jens Poeppelbuss and is entitled 'Designing the Information Architecture of Governmental One-Stop Portals: On the Application and Analysis of Card Sorting'. The paper reflects on how e-government has been widely promoted as a one-stop online shop for citizens to access public services since its emergence in the late

1990s. This study reports on the initial efforts of an Australian state government to develop information architecture to structure the content of their future one-stop portal. Within this context, card sorting exercises have been examined using a case study in Queensland, Australia. The paper describes the application of different card sorting approaches within the case setting and discusses their strengths and weaknesses as well as the approach taken to develop a customer-focused governmental one-stop portal.

The fourth paper is by Cassandra Harris and Jenifer Winter. This paper examines the influence of social networking on citizens' participation in government activities and is entitled 'An exploratory study of social networking services as a potential vehicle for e-participation in the City and County of Honolulu'. The paper presents the case of the utilization of Social Networking Services by policymakers in Honolulu, Hawaii. The authors examine qualitatively, through interviews, how Social Networking was integrated into the policymaking process in the City of Honolulu and highlight the main issues faced in deploying social networking services within a government service context. The findings in the paper suggest that government-operated social networking services are primarily being used currently as a one-way-information-based service. The empirical results in the paper also suggest that at present social networking services are used by the City of Honolulu to directly promote e-participation initiatives. One of the main recommendations in this paper is that an agency-wide use policy should be created to facilitate consistency of use across administrations and that formal pilot studies should be conducted to explore the perspectives of multiple stakeholders involved in public services.

The fifth paper is entitled 'An e-Government Approach for Bridging the Participation Gap in Achieving Participatory Good Govern-

nance' and is by Wahed Uzzaman and Shah Jahan Miah.

This paper addresses issues surrounding participatory governance by examining e-government strategy using a bottom-up approach. Using a qualitative case study, the authors identify a participation gap in achieving participatory good governance and attempt to address this gap through e-Government implementation in rural sector of a developing country. The outcomes of this study are reported demonstrating how e-government strategy can play a significant role in addressing the participation-gap in implementing qualities of good governance.

Finally, the sixth paper in this current issue of IJEGR is by Rania Mousa and is entitled 'E-government Adoption in the U.K.: XBRL Project'. This paper investigates an e-government initiative that is facilitated by the Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) at Companies House in the United Kingdom. Based on the application of Rogers' framework, the research identifies Companies House's motivation, vision and process to use XBRL to achieve efficiency and produce better quality data to enhance and streamline their electronic filing process. The empirical results in this study offers some valuable insights in helping decision makers and ICT experts in government agencies to devise meaningful strategic plans to adopt future e-government initiatives as well as to develop existing ones.

We hope that the above papers offer valuable insights into different e-government implementation and diffusion contexts and will help readers appreciate the influence that these different context have on the overall success of e-government.

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