
Editorial

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Biographical notes: David C. Chou is Professor of Computer Information Systems at Eastern Michigan University. He received his BC degree from Feng-Chia University, MS degree from National Taiwan University and MS and PhD degrees from Georgia State University. He has published more than 170 articles and papers in the fields of information systems. He is the Program Chair of the Southwest DSI 2006 Conference and also the Editor-in-Chief for the *International Journal of Information Systems and Change Management (IJISCM)* and the *International Journal of Management Theory and Practice (IJMTP)*. Currently, he serves as editorial board member for five academic journals.

Information systems increasingly change people's lives, including relationships, communications, transactions, data collection and decision-making. Changes in IT lead to innovation, new business models and services. Organisational leaders need to consider the impact of change inside their organisations. Business must constantly examine its performance, strategy, processes and systems in order to monitor the changes to be made.

International Journal of Information Systems and Change Management (IJISCM) is a fully refereed journal covering the general field of information systems and change management theories, methodologies, modelling, processes and tools, with emphasis on the management, problem-solving and strategies for dealing with business changes.

The objectives of *IJISCM* are to promote the research and practice of information systems and change management. *IJISCM* aims to establish an effective channel of communication between academic educators, information systems workers, managers, industry consultants and practitioners to contribute, disseminate and learn from each other's work. *IJISCM* aims to act as a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas and for sharing practical experiences in information systems and change management.

This inaugural issue collects six research papers related to information systems and change management fields. Topics in this issue consist of 'Changes in MIS research: status and themes from 1989 to 2000', 'Decision support systems for change management', 'Resisting the change to user stories: a trip to Abilene', 'Managing the change process of the post-merger enterprise systems integration: a case study', 'Estimating web services reliability: a semantic approach' and 'An ERP solution based on web services and peer-to-peer networks for small and medium enterprises'.

The first paper studies the changes in MIS research around the decade of 1990s. Contributed by Wilfred W. Wu (Washington State University, USA) and his co-authors, this paper surveys the literature in the area of management information systems, identifies past research themes and trends and also pinpoints the future research directions within this field.

The second paper focuses on the theories and methodologies of building decision support tools for change management. Chen H. Chung (University of Kentucky, USA) first philosophically explores the nature of change and the scope of change management. He then presents a change-causation-possibility (CCP) model for change management. The final part of this paper develops a framework for building decision support systems for the change management process.

Resistance to change is a common characteristic within organisations. The next paper was written by John McAvoy and Tom Butler (University College Cork, Ireland). They describe a case study that examines the changes to the information systems development environment shaped by the introduction of a new software development methodology in which the user stories were used. The findings of this longitudinal study shows that developers' commitment to the use of users stories diminishes greatly. Further, the authors use the theory of competing commitments and the Abilene Paradox to discuss why the change was resisted.

Maria Alaranta (Turku School of Economics and Business, Finland) conducted a study on an important area in change management - managing the change process of the post-merger enterprise systems integration. Within a business process life cycle, both the post-merger integration and the implementation of an enterprise system are sources of radical change. This paper conducted a longitudinal study on the enterprise system integration after a merger of two companies. This case study shows that elements of each item in the proposed model played significant roles in the post-merger enterprise system integration process.

Web services technology becomes popular nowadays. The next paper is targeted at this technology's reliability. Shi-Ming Huang (National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan) and his co-authors propose a semantic approach to estimate reliability of web services. This new approach clarifies some unreliable situations within the web services implementation. This paper also uses a system implementation case study to demonstrate and verify the technique it proposes.

The last paper identifies a new way of building enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems within small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Nico Brehm (Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, Germany) and his co-authors propose an architecture for a distributed ERP system based on web services and peer-to-peer network technology. This new approach's roll-out and maintenance is more affordable for SMEs than that of traditional systems.

This inaugural issue starts a new forum in fields of information systems and change management. I believe that these two fields can be synthesised as one emergent research area. Although the research of traditional change management was focused on organisational and managerial studies, I can certainly foresee the new wave within this research area. The modern business environment faces various challenges and opportunities from globalisation, outsourcing, innovation and business process changes. Information systems and information technology surely play an important role in the modern business world. I can anticipate new theories, models, methodologies and tools to be developed in the near future. This journal will gladly serve as a research medium for researchers and professionals in the world.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading these interesting papers in *IJISCM's* inaugural issue.