Measuring the Success of Female Faculty in the IS Research Arena: An Empirical Investigation

Emergent Research Forum

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Abstract

The gender disparity in the US IT workforce is well documented (Brandel, 2014). While women make up over half the professional US workforce, less than a quarter of the US jobs in technical or computing fields are held by women (May, 2015). Worldwide, nearly three-quarters of Chief Information Officers acknowledge that a gender imbalance exists in their organizations (Brandel, 2014). Several reasons have been suggested as to why this gender disparity exists including a decline in female students enrolling in information and communication technology (ICT) courses (Beyer, 2008), fewer women entering the IT industry (Ahuja, 2002) and lack of role models for women (Collett, 2010, May, 2015). To address these issues, different initiatives have been established (Craig, Dawson, and Fisher, 2009; Klawe, Whitney, and Simard, 2009) such as 'intervention programs' in schools, in universities, in organizations, and in the industry as a whole.

This research-in-progress looks at two issues: (1) whether a concomitant gender gap exists in MIS university faculty members and (2) whether women and men university faculty members are equally successful in the profession, as measured by their publishing activity in the leading MIS journals.