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**Stimulating Discourse on Topical Themes in
Information Systems Research**

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1 Editorial Overview

JITTA continues to prove as an outlet to stimulate discourse on topical themes and timely contributions to information systems research. Special sections for big data analytics, business process management, human-centered IS, and neuroIS serve as standing call for papers on important contemporary research areas. The global profile of the editorial team, systematically involving all three strategic regions of the Association for Information Systems (AIS), contributes to a wide reach both of authors and readership. Last but not least, the journal's strong commitment to fast turn-around times further facilitates knowledge dissemination and discourse in our field.

In this issue, we publish two papers that we deem thought provoking and influential in important contemporary research areas.

In the first paper, Norman Pendegraft from the College of Business and Economics at University of Idaho addresses information systems security and usage (Pendegraft, 2017). Pendegraft models the relationship between users and the system as an obligate mutualism and the relationship between the system and the attackers as a predator-prey relationship. Sensitivity analysis on a numerical example suggests that the model is consistent with expectations on economic reality. Critical point analysis suggests that defense that reduces the reward to attackers is superior to those that reduce damage to assets. The paper provides a basis for future work extending the mathematical model or for empirical work evaluating the parameters.

In the second paper, Steven Alter from the University of San Francisco and Jan Recker from the Queensland University of Technology contributes to the important research area of business process management (BPM) (Alter & Recker, 2017). Specifically, they use a work system perspective to expand BPM research use cases, and they complement prior work particularly regarding the managerial and organizational challenges of BPM. They present both new research topics that extend existing BPM use cases and new research directions that go beyond those use cases leading to a more balanced BPM research agenda that blends technical and managerial challenges more fully. By applying work-systems theory, the paper also provides a rich theoretical foundation for BPM in more general terms, which researchers can use for a variety of further research projects.

I am grateful to all authors, reviewers, and editors who contributed to this issue and the research on topical themes. I hope *JITTA*'s emphasis on topical research themes as well as the journal's commitment to fast turn-around times, will lead to positive and dynamic developments in the IS field.

References

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