Editorial

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1   Introduction

This issue brings down the curtain on the 20-year run of the *Journal of Information Technology Theory and Application* (*JITTA*). In this final issue editorial, we invited the past editors-in-chief (EIC) to contribute content on major milestones and developments achieved in this journey.

2   From Ken Peffers

I published the first volume at Rutgers University in 1999 with help from a group of my MBA students. It included four papers from eight authors. The second volume contained seven papers from 13 authors. The third volume included 31 papers. In the next several years, I worked to develop a global editorial group with decentralized editorial authority. Researchers could send papers directly to their preferred editor, who then controlled the review process for the paper. This structure evolved over the years, but its essential nature persisted until the present day with editorial responsibility divided among editors in Asia/Australia, the Americas, and Europe. From its beginning until 2009, I published *JITTA* as a proprietary publisher and served as EIC. In 2005-2008, I shared the EIC role with Rajiv Kishore (SUNY Buffalo at that time).

The journal's initial strategy intended it to fill a niche capacity for IS research. Its acceptance policy purposefully favored author control; the editor treated reviews as advisory and the editor often overruled them. Its policy favored a fast submission to publication time; authors had to have paper in polished condition before it went out for review. Structural elements, such as the explicit contribution statement, and detailed coaching about structure and style in the submission guidelines helped to speed the process. In 2009, its ownership was transferred to the AIS based on an agreement with David Avison, AIS President, and Guy Fitzgerald, AIS VP for Publications.

3   From Mark Srite, Tuure Tuunanen and Marcus Rothenberger

The *JITTA* governing board in the AIS appointed us as co-EICs when the AIS acquired the journal and served from 1999 to 2013 (Mark Srite), 2014 (Tuure Tuunanen), and 2015 (Marcus Rothenberger), respectively. The first years of our tenure as co-editors involved major changes to the journal. In 2009, *JITTA* became one of the three general scope journals of the AIS, which a common layout and mode of publication reflected. In cooperation with the AIS, we developed a journal design in the style of the layout that *JAIS* and *CAIS* used and worked with Bepress to move *JITTA* to the AIS's review and publication system. While the journal was previously paper based with online access through research databases, such as ABI/Inform, the AIS continued it as an online-only journal that AIS members could access via the AIS eLibrary.

Strategically, we aimed to increase the journal's quality and rigor. Thus, from the early years of our time as co-EIC, we strove to generate publicity and increase submissions. The increased rigor led to a lower acceptance rate and a decrease in the average number of papers per issue; we deliberately accepted a lower publication rate in order to maintain a quality that would lead *JITTA* to appear on journal rankings. This strategy showed results by 2013 when *JITTA* appeared in the Australian Business Dean's List as an A journal (on a four-tier scale, including A*, A, B, and C), a notable success. The list placed *JITTA* in the same tier as the *Communications of the AIS*. Subsequently, the UK's Chartered Association of Business Schools and the German VHB (Academic Association of Business Research) included *JITTA* in their ranking lists.

In order to qualify for the inclusion in citation indexing databases, we aimed to maintain a more regular publication schedule, which required a more substantial publication backlog of several issues. To help with the build-up of a backlog and to match the publication schedule with the three EIC model, we reduced the number of issues from four to three per year in 2014. By doing so, each editor could be responsible for one issue per volume. To further grow high-quality paper submissions, we continued our publicity efforts, sought out affiliations with research workshops, and expanded the group of senior editors by inviting well-known researchers in many areas in our field. Towards the latter years of our time as EICs and during the tenure of our successors, publication schedules became regular and we created a sufficient backlog of papers to maintain a steady publication pace. Elsevier's Scopus recognized as much by approaching the journal in 2018 to include it in its indexing database. Unfortunately, by that time, the AIS council had already withdrawn its support for *JITTA* and it had begun to wind down; thus, we had to decline this

invitation. While the journal now also had a position to apply for the inclusion in the Web of Science citation index, we had to terminate these efforts due to the journal's imminent shutdown.

We were happy to be a part of *JITTA*'s transition from an independent journal to an AIS publication and are proud of the accomplishments we achieved for the journal. Thus, we are truly sorry to see that this new time of transition results in the final issue of *JITTA* being published. We would like to thank all other former and current EIC of *JITTA*, the AIS's *JITTA* governing board, the Senior advisory board, the senior editors, the reviewers, and the authors for supporting *JITTA,* which made it possible to maintain the journal for an exciting 20 years.

4   From Jan vom Brocke

At ICIS 2013 in Milan, Ken asked me to serve the journal in the role of Co-EIC and I happily accepted. I had joined the company of Marcus Rothenberger and Mark Srite, who both had great experience with the journal leading it for a good long while. At that time, submissions to the journal had not been great and sometimes it had been a challenge to publish issues in time. We engaged in discussions on how to further develop the journal and essentially identified three initiatives: 1) we changed issues to three papers per issue, which gave us some space to assure high-quality submissions and publish issues in time, 2) we introduced a concurrent publication process of papers as the journal accepted them, 3) we introduced so-called *themes* to the journal, specifically on emergent topics in information systems research (vom Brocke, 2014) and appointed high-profile colleagues to lead these themes (i.e., Sudha Ram to lead the big data analytics theme, Jan Recker to lead the business process management theme, and Rene Riedl to lead the human-centered IS and neuroIS theme).

With such themes, we intended to assure good-quality papers flowed into the journal and facilitating further high-impact publications. Some such papers have become highly cited, such as Jan Recker's paper "Suggestions for the Next Wave of BPM Research: Strengthening the Theoretical Core and Exploring the Protective Belt" (Recker, 2014). These papers will continue to influence the field. In this way, the journal provided a home for emerging themes, such as neuroIS (Dimoka et al., 2012; Riedl et al., 2010), and it established into an outlet to publish research on emerging fields. These efforts had taken effect and let us into rankings such as JOURQUAL—the German Association for Business Research Jourqual 3.0 list[1].

With Mark rolling out, we had an opportunity to rethink the journal's governmental structure and decided on a true international profile. As an AIS journal, we decided to shift to a truly global structure that involved one EIC per AIS region, and we were the first AIS journal to do so. We involved Carol Hsu next to represent Region 3, while Marcus still represented Region 1 and I represented Region 2. Later, when Marcus left the team, we involved Monica Chiarini Tremblay to represent Region 1. At that stage, *JITTA* was the one AIS journal with a true global governance structure as to the three strategic locations, and it attracted an increasing number of high-quality submissions. The journal succeeded in building up a pipeline of papers such that we could continue to publish the journal for another two years after it officially closed down.

I personally think a journal of this kind, as I outline above, provides important value to the community. I am grateful for the time I spent with the journal and to all the people involved. I have learnt a lot and am particularly grateful for the many things I experienced during my time with the journal. I extended my tenure for another two years to accompany the transition, which means I spent around five years with *JITTA*, and I really look forward to staying in touch with all colleagues involved in this endeavor.

5   From Carol Hsu and Monica Chiarini Tremblay

Shortly after we began our terms as co-EICs, we learned that the AIS had discontinued *JITTA*. We have since focused our efforts on the manuscripts in *JITTA's* pipeline. We both devoted two years past our expected tenure in order to do so. We were mindful that these papers influence their authors' careers and promotions, especially given *JITTA's* presence in several important rankings. We are both sad to see *JITTA's* journey come to an end; we concur with our colleagues that journals such as *JITTA* provide an

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essential outlet for IS researchers. We are pleased with the papers that we saw through to publication these past three years.

In this final issue, we have excellent examples of the contributions that *JITTA* has made. The research papers that all have both theoretical and practical implications across many research methods and contexts.

In the first paper, Javadi and Gebauer focus on the role of IS user interface design in idea integration. Applying an attention-based view of idea integration, they present a model and subsequent experimental study to explore the interaction between idea visibility, prioritization, and idea integration, and the moderating effects of information diversity and group size.

In the second paper, Werder and Heckman conduct a systematic literature review on ambidexterity in IS research. They identify six distinct research streams that use an ambidexterity lens: IT-enabled organizational ambidexterity, ambidextrous IT capability, ambidexterity in IS development, ambidextrous IS strategy, ambidextrous inter-organizational relationships, and organizational ambidexterity in IS.

In the third paper, Baskerville and Pries-Heje challenge design science research (DSR) to consider projectability as opposed to generizability in the propagation of design science theory, models, and principles. They analyze design science papers published in a 2008 special issue of *MISQ* and find that, in all but one case, the papers that developed the projections involved one or more of the original authors. They propose a language and a projection process logic in six parts that better frame (and improve) DSR's projectability.

In the fourth and final paper, Niemöller, Niemöller, Berkemeier, Zobel, and Thomas investigate how smart glasses offer new possibilities to support service processes (in particular in situations where a person providing a service needs both hands to complete a complex set of tasks). This DSR study takes place in a three-year consortium with partners in the agricultural technology sector. The authors develop and implement design requirements and principles for smart glasses-based service support systems.

We raise our glass in honor of this final issue of *JITTA* and to *JITTA's* tremendous journey. We thank Bepress and the AIS for generously providing support for more than a year than what was originally agreed to. We are especially thankful to the authors that entrusted us with their work.

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About the Authors

Ken Peffers was the founding editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Information Technology Theory & Application*. He is Professor of MIS, Lee School of Business, University of Nevada Las Vegas. He has held positions at Rutgers University, Texas Tech University, the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His research has followed broad themes, including evaluating value and strategy in IT investments, design science research, and requirements acquisition. His research publications have been cited more than 7000 times, according to Google Scholar. His 2007-8 paper in *JMIS*, "A Design Science Research Methodology for Information Systems Research", has been cited more than any other paper in information systems published since its print date.

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