

Editorial for EJEG Volume 18 Issue 1, 2020

It is with great pleasure, but also with mixed feelings, that I write this editorial. The pleasure is due to having 6 full research papers from very different contexts (West-Indies, Saudi-Arabia, UK, Sweden and Estonia), both empirical and conceptual on very different issues, including Internet voting, social media and citizen satisfaction, sustainable e-government, methods for studying electronic government, public procurement, and e-democracy. The mixed feelings are due to the fact that EJEG will become dormant for an undecided period.

In the first paper, Lloyd G. Waller and his co-authors Nichola Satchell, Gavin Daley and Damion Gordon from University of West-Indies, explore the relationship between Internet voting and youth political participation in the Jamaican society through a survey of 600 youngsters. Their findings suggest that Internet voting may not substantially reduce apathy, as under-participation is often a symptom of deeper problems or conditions that cannot be resolved solely by the introduction of ICT. Still Internet voting holds the potential to improve voter turnout.

The second paper examines the relation between municipalities social media performance and citizen satisfaction. The authors, Irene Bernhard and her colleagues from University West in Sweden, use secondary data on citizen satisfaction from official Swedish statistics, and apply a Facebook performance index developed by a Swedish company. Through calculation partial correlation coefficient, they find correlation between municipalities' Facebook performance and citizen's satisfaction with living in the municipality and with the service provision.

Sulaiman Aljarallah and Russel Lock from Loughborough University, UK has authored the third paper which titles: "An investigation into Sustainable E-Government in Saudi Arabia". They find that the term sustainable e-government is defined in an over-simplified and too generic way. Based on survey data from Saudi Arabia, they find that users pay significant attention to social sustainability, with trust, security and usability being top ranked, but less to economic and environmental sustainability. The study affirms the importance of cooperation between software development departments and government agencies during design and implementation of e-government, and shows the importance of sustainability for e-government success.

Keegan McBride and Dirk Draheim from Tallin University of Technology in Estonia have authored a conceptual paper on "Complex Adaptive Systems and Electronic Government". They argue that the phenomena EG scholars study are complex, and hence propose adopting an approach based around complexity theory and complex adaptive systems (CAS). The paper aims to provide the initial foundation for application of CAS.

Deepak Saxena and Joe McDonagh, both from Trinity College in Ireland, have authored: "Exploring enterprise information systems procurement in public service organisations". They find that the majority of Enterprise Information Systems (EIS) research is on implementation, with relatively little work on the pre-implementation, including the procurement. The authors did a retrospective study of three instances of EIS procurement in one public service organisation in UK. Through a processual analysis, they find that decision-making it is not a rational and linear process, but rather a multi-level process where factors from the work system and the larger macrosocial level play a crucial role in influencing decisions at the organisational level.

In the final paper Mats Danielson and Love Ekenberg from Stockholm University, and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria, have developed a framework for evaluating tools for E-democracy. This is based on earlier theories and frameworks, and is evaluated against two test cases. The framework is generic and can be applied for evaluating what types of democratic values are being supported in particular e-democracy tools, and for actually selecting a tool.

The editor,
Dr Carl Erik Moe