

Editor's Introduction

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Three papers are included in this issue. The paper by White, Lafayette and Wang addresses an issue related to the relationship between IS managers and IS department success. This is an important but under-investigated issue. No institution can be successful without an outstanding leader. The paper examines the issue from the perspective of empowerment, leadership and personality. It is not surprising that they found highly empowered managers lead to high IS department performance.

The second paper by Hui studies respondent biases due to item context effect in survey research. Currently, survey is the most common method for IS research and reducing potential biases is critical to the validity of research findings. The research conducted two studies to examine the correlational and directional item context effects. It also provides guidelines for mitigating the potential biases.

The third paper by French and Shim is an article that reports the western influence in Asian IS programs. It compares educational background of faculty members in North American institutions and in Asian Institutions and the effect of educational background on publication productivity. The result indicates that researchers trained in the North American prefer empirical research method and can better publish in North American journals. Lack of respectable publication outlets and locally developed theories are major challenges for further enhancing scholarship in Asia.

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