Editorial: Qualitative Issues in Information Systems Development

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EDITORIAL NEWS

We would like to welcome a new Senior Editor to JITTA, Peter Axel Nielsen is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Aalborg University in Denmark. His research focuses on systems development and software process improvement. His work has appeared in the major journals in our field.

THE CURRENT ISSUE

In this issue we are pleased to publish two articles that examine different aspects of information systems development (ISD). Although the two papers are considerably different in their overall research agenda and method, they have some commonality in that both examine ISD in a Nordic context and both are qualitative studies. The first article looks at coordination mechanisms and the mode of coordination across two cases (Finnish Universities and Finnish public and private pension funds). The second article focuses on the affect of pricing and opportunistic behavior in ISD within the Danish information technology industry.

Nurmi (2010) utilized an exploratory case study approach to examine multi-organizational ISD projects. Two separate cases were considered. The first case focused on the educational sector, while the second examined pension funds. In their study they described how coordination mechanisms and the mode of coordination affected the functionality of the system. Overall they found that it is difficult to change the mode of coordination. They feel that this is due to the variety and number of stakeholders.

Kautz (2010) used a grounded theory approach to examine ISD projects. A model of the impact of pricing and opportunistic behavior was developed. The author used principal-agent theory and the prisoner’s dilemma to develop their model. It was concluded that there is an interrelationship between pricing, pricing structure, risk distribution and opportunistic behavior in ISD.

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