From the Desk of the Editor

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This is the first issue of Volume 24, 2015. An issue that covers topics such as (big) data, process management and the differences in how cultures perceive and use information systems.

With the rise of big data new database technologies have been developed. In "NoSQL Database Technologies" various classifications of NoSQL technologies as well as many of the notable characteristics of the technologies have been described. Furthermore the authors also describe some deficiencies of using NoSQL and give some explanation to why companies are adopting the technology. Creating reliable predictions with large amounts of data is increasingly a challenge. One approach based on a novel adaptation of the Fuzzy C-Means algorithm is given in the paper "An Innovative Clustering Approach to Market Segmentation for Improved Price Prediction".

In the information management domain many studies are undertaken with the aim to determine differences between situations, context, countries and cultures. In "Business Processes Management in the Netherlands and Portugal: The Effect of BPM Maturity on BPM Performance" the relationship between process maturity and performance is looked at. The research is performed in both a country that is in a relatively more mature stadium with regard to BPM practices (Netherlands) and one that is still going through an adapting phase (Portugal). In this issue there are also other articles that study cross-cultural issues. In "Perceptions and Use of Anonymous Communication Across Cultures" the authors look at why people engage in anonymous communication, and if there is a perceived need for legal protection of anonymous communication in different cultures. Technostress experienced by Chinese knowledge workers was investigated and compared to that of US workers in "Validating the Technostress instrument using a sample of Chinese knowledge workers" and in emerging economies a study is performed on attitude of students' use of computers in a university environment, as is discussed in "Factors Influencing Students' Attitudes to Computer Utilization in Tertiary Institutions: An Exploratory Study"

As the editor, I would like to thank Dr. C. E. Tapie Rohm, Jr., Editor-in-Chief, members of the Executive Committee of the IIMA, all members of the Editorial Review Board, as well as many ad hoc reviewers for their support whose time and efforts made it possible to go through so many quality manuscripts and select the few articles published.

Furthermore, I would like to thank all the authors of manuscripts, whether accepted for publication or not and for the readers of this journal. Without your contributions, it wouldn't be possible to maintain the growth of a quality journal. I look forward to your continuing contributions of quality manuscripts.

Pascal Ravesteijn

Editor