Editorial Preface: Global Information Technology Management Research: A Reality Check

By: Prashant Palvia.

Abstract:

This is the fourth year of operation of the *Journal of Global Information Technology Management* (JGITM). While it has been a lot of hard work on part of a lot of people, it is gratifying to note that the journal is firmly rooted and respected in the IS community and it continues to maintain its high standards of quality. It is also an appropriate time for some introspection and look at several performance measures to assess the journals' value in terms of its goals (I wish other journals will follow my lead and conduct a similar analysis periodically).

Keywords: Journal of Global Information Technology Management | performance measures | quality

Article:

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As stated in the mission/scope of the journal (included with every issue), some key phrases are:

- will publish articles and reports related to all aspects of the application of information technology in international business.

- emphasis on quality and relevance.

- international in all respects: content, article authorship, readership, and editorial board.

- will consider a variety of methodological approaches.

 - will include educational cases and reviews of MIS books.

- practitioner input will be specifically solicited.

Some items are straightforward and can be easily addressed. For example, each issue includes a book review and an interview with a practitioner. One of the issues included an interview with the Prime Minister of Malaysia about that country's IT initiatives. On quality and relevance, we have a quality two-stage review process in place. Many articles, howsoever good they may be, are returned to the author if they do not fit the global IT focus of the journal. The review process has been so effective that we are receiving better manuscripts all the time. The acceptance rate may be a deceptive measure of quality; as in the beginning we received lower quality manuscripts resulting in more rejections and now we receive more and more higher quality manuscripts resulting in fewer rejections. Lastly, the editorial board of the journal includes reviewers from all comers of the world, and our readership is international as well.

Other issues require further analysis and examination. I have now carefully examined all the articles published in JGITM so far, including this issue. A meta-analysis was conducted on a total of 42 articles published to date. The results are discussed below:

ARTICLE AUTHORSHIP

The current literature in MIS represents a significant U.S. bias. One of the goals of JGITM is to address this concern. As stated in the mission, a representative global view can be achieved by having international authors writing about IS practices in all parts of this world. JGITM provides an explicit outlet for all MIS researchers from all parts of the world to share their ideas in a common forum. Table 1 represents the distribution of authors by countries. Note that there can be multiple authors for an article and an author can have multiple articles. According to this table, about 40% authors are U.S. based (even though many of them are originally from other countries). But the fact that 60% are from other countries and that we have accepted articles from twenty-two countries speak for the success of our mission. Note that there is still a lot of articles from the U.S., Europe, and newly industrialized countries, which is perhaps due to the fact that majority of the research continues is be conducted there.

Table 1: Author Origin	
Author Origin	**Frequency**
United States	35
United Kingdom	7
Hong Kong	6
Singapore	6
Australia	5
The Netherlands	5
Canada	3
Tanzania	2
Kuwait	2
South Africa	2
Greece	2
France	1
South Korea	1
Finland	1
Pakistan	1
Brazil	1
Norway	1
Ireland	1
Taiwan	1
India	1
New Zealand	1
Indonesia	1
Total	**86**

Table 2: Topics by Geographic Areas	
Country/region	**Frequency**
United States	9
Global Issues	8
Singapore	5
Hong Kong	4
China	3
Australia	2
Greece	2
Kuwait	2
South Korea	2
Taiwan	2
Africa	1
Asia	1
Brazil	1
Developing countries	1
India	1
Ireland	1
Japan	1
Latin America	1
Malaysia	1
Mexico	1
Mongolia	1
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
South Africa	1
United Kingdom	1
Total	**54**

ARTICLE FOCUS BY GEOGRAPHIC REGION

Another measure of representative research is what regions of the world these authors are writing about. Once again, most of the research in MIS published in other journals is based on U.S. practices. In this aspect, JGITM has done an outstanding job (Table 2). Only 16% of the articles in this journal focused on U.S. issues. It is encouraging to note that 15% focused their efforts on truly global issues. Research was reported on 21 countries as well as specific issues in developing counties, Africa, and Latin America were also addressed. Thus even though, there were more researchers based in the U.S., they are examining more and more international issues.

Another source of evidence of the breadth of topics covered in the journal are the actual topics themselves. A list of topics appearing in the journal is shown in Table 3. It is clear that JGITM is addressing many important topics in MIS - although its focus is on their international implications.

Table 3: Article Topics
IS management issues, IT in MNCs, Education, Global IT research, Executive information systems, Group support systems, IT human resources, Job satisfaction, Technology adoption, ISO 9000 certification, Impact of IT, IT diffusion, IT in developing countries, Technology in selected countries, IS development, Systems analysis and design issues, Electronic commerce in developing countries, IT in less developed countries, Culture and electronic commerce, Economic development, strategic use of global IT, Business process reengineering, Electronic data interchange, IS planning in developing countries, Media use in organizations, World wide web practices, IT diffusion in SMEs.

METHODOLOGY

The last item we discuss is the research methodologies used in the published articles. We do not take the view that any single methodology is superior or inferior to others. Rather, the choice of methodology depends on a number of factors including the topic, topic maturity, researcher's expertise and experience, and the available resources. The field of MIS has probably suffered from an over-reliance on the survey methodology at the expense of the neglect of other methodologies. Fortunately, in recent years, many leading voices in MIS have made a call for using alternate methodologies, especially case studies and qualitative approaches. In fact, the entire MIS discipline is seeing the deployment of alternate methodologies. In this respect, JGITM has been a leader as it has shown no bias towards any particular methodology. Table 4 shows all the methodologies that were used in this journal's published articles (note that some articles employ multiple methodologies). While the survey methodology is the leading one, it represents only 30% of all the methodologies that were used. Other methodologies that were highly utilized were the case methodology and the use of secondary data. Some new methodologies and the ones used infrequently in the general literature are: email surveys, web site analysis, meta research, and action research.

Table 4: Methodologies

Methodology	Frequency
Survey	15
Case Study	8
Secondary data	7
Interviews	4
Conceptual	3
Literature analysis	3
Action Research	2
Meta analysis	2
Web site analysis	2
Email survey	1
Experiment	1
Observations	1
Qualitative/grounded-theory	1
Total	50

CONCLUSION

The state of the journal is very good. JGITM is meeting its stated mission and goals. This assessment is based on the evaluation of objective and quantitative performance measures. I thank the authors, board members, reviewers, and readers for their valuable contributions. This is not to say that we will not engage in continuous enhancement. In the future, we will continue to improve JGITM and strive to make it one of the top MIS journals in the world. Your suggestions are welcome in this regard.

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