

## Editorial Preface

### *International Journal of Doctoral Studies (Vol. 2)*

This year has marked another milestone for IJDS. IJDS continues to provide an outlet for quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles on a wide variety of issues related to doctoral studies in areas such as informing science, information systems, information technology, information science, information security, and IT education. The vision for 2007 included a pursuit of a combination of manuscripts documenting rigorous studies in the area of doctoral studies and a few manuscripts from distinguished scholars on recent doctoral studies issues. I'm very proud to say that the editorial board of IJDS was successful in reaching their vision.

This second volume includes four manuscripts. Schniederjans' article, *A proposed Ph.D. student bill of rights*, explores the issues of fairness and rights that Ph.D. students should expect during their dissertation process. The article discusses six articles of rights, with details on each of the Ph.D. students' rights, and the associated dissertation chair's responsibilities to address such rights. The article is critical for both students who are just admitted to or in their first year of their doctoral studies and to faculty members who are either going to chair or have started chairing doctoral dissertations.

Grover's article, *Successfully navigating the stages of doctoral study*, explores the four major stages students navigate while doing their doctoral study. The article highlights several key mistakes that doctoral students commonly make during each of the four stages. The article concludes with a useful checklist recommended for doctoral students to use in order to check their progress during each stage of their doctoral study.

Ray's article, *Selecting a doctoral dissertation supervisor: Analytical hierarchy approach to the multiple criteria problem*, explores the significance of selecting a dissertation chair. The proposed selection is recommended based on a set of ten predetermined criteria using an analytical hierarchy approach, validated with data collected from junior and senior doctoral students. The article provides ranks for the ten criteria based on the analysis and discuss the results, limitations, as well as conclusions produced from the study.

Ali and Kohun's article, *Dealing with social isolation to minimize doctoral attrition – A four stage framework*, is a follow up work to their earlier article published in Volume 1. The article discusses the theoretical and fundamental link between social isolation among Information Systems (IS) doctoral students and their attrition in a doctoral program.

I welcome Irma Becerra-Fernandez (Florida International University) as an IJDS associate editor. Additionally, I would like to thank all the current associate editors for their continuous support to IJDS including (in alphabetical order of last name): Sue Conger (University of Dallas), Nitzza Geri (The Open University of Israel), Frederick George M. Marakas (University of Kansas), and Bernd Carsten Stahl (De Montfort University). Without your outstanding support and dedicated service, IJDS would not have been successful.

Additionally, I am pleased to list outstanding International Review Board members who served as reviewers for one or more manuscripts submitted this year to IJDS (in alphabetical order of last name):

- Baharuddin Aris, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia)
- John M. Artz, George Washington University (USA)
- James C. Flowers, Ball State University (USA)

- Laurence Habib, University College, Oslo (Norway)
- Chaya Herman, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- Cecilia Sik Lanyi, University of Pannonia (Hungary)
- James Lawler, Pace University (USA)
- Jayantha P. Liyanage, University of Stavanger (Norway)
- Martha M. Snyder, Nova Southeastern University (USA)
- Amanda Spink, Queensland University of Technology (Australia)
- Steven R. Terrell, Nova Southeastern University (USA)
- Darla Twale, University of Dayton (USA)
- Niranjala Weerakkody, Deakin University (Australia)
- Victoria Wise, University of Tasmania (Australia)
- Kuan Yew Wong, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia)
- Justin Zhan, University of Ottawa (Canada)

Thank you all for the meticulous reviews and dedicated time!

In the coming year, IJDS editors will chair track sessions in several conferences such as ISOne-World and Decision Science Institute (DSI) Conference 2008. We will continue publishing high quality manuscripts documenting rigorous studies, manuscripts from a distinguished scholar on recent doctoral studies issues, and book reviews in the area of doctoral studies.

Last but not least, I would like to raise the issue of first person notation and personal anecdotes in IJDS manuscript submissions. We received several manuscripts in the past two years where authors document their own experience with their own doctoral study endeavor. Although these prospective authors might find it valuable to document their own doctoral study endeavor, our policy calls for the elimination of the use of first person and personal anecdotes from scholarly manuscripts, especially for novice researchers. Instead, the use of literature should be guiding the writing of the manuscript. We realize that first person notation and personal anecdotes are for a great value to novice researchers if they come from distinguished scholars with decades of scholarly experience, such as the Schniederjans' and Grover's articles in this volume. We encourage novice researchers to spend time ensuring that their manuscript addresses viable issues in literature, rather than just their own story telling. Moreover, novice researchers should constantly ask themselves when writing a scholarly document if the text they write address the three basic questions:

- a) Says who?
- b) Based on what?
- c) So what?

Using viable quality peer-review literature addresses the first question. Answering the second question demonstrates whether or not the claims are based on viable research information or based on hypothetical ideas, or even baseless altogether. Answering the third question tells the reader the importance and relevance of the paper's findings.

I very much appreciate your support as we continue to make IJDS the most authoritative journal on doctoral studies.

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