

Editorial Preface

International Journal of Doctoral Studies (Vol. 3)

This volume represents the third year for IJDS and the journal continues to grow. In this volume, IJDS continues to provide an outlet for quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles on a wide variety of issues related to doctoral studies. Although the journal received considerable increase in the number of articles submitted for review from previous years, the IJDS editorial board has accepted only the few that are both relevant to the journal readership and are of the quality approved by the editorial board.

This third IJDS volume includes six manuscripts. Buckingham's article, *Development of English Academic Writing Competence by Turkish Scholars*, presents a qualitative study based on 13 Turkish researchers and their struggles with English writing skills. Specifically, her study discusses the difficulties non-native speakers of English have in writing academic research articles in English for publications in quality journals. Buckingham concludes with proposed strategies that may help school administrators address the struggles of these researchers. Dondlinger and Jones's article, *Situating Educational Computing Doctoral Students in a Community of Practice: A Rubric-driven, Online Portfolio System*, outlines a rubric-driven online portfolio system for doctoral students. Their article uses situated cognition theory as the theoretical foundation for the design and development of such online portfolio system. Dondlinger and Jones conclude with some benefits that such a system provides for students and faculty members in doctoral programs. Stahl et al.'s article, *The Social Side of Theory: A Community-Based Narrative of Research and Theory*, discusses the role of theory in research from the perspective of novice researchers. They outline seminars that increase awareness of such role for doctoral students in order to develop a research community. Wong's article, *Explication of Tacit Knowledge in Higher Education Institutional Research through the Criteria of Professional Practice Action Research Approach: A Focus Group Case Study at an Australian University*, presents research based on a doctoral candidates' focus group related to the adoption and use of the knowledge management processes. Wong also discusses the reflective practice research approach, a type of action research, and concludes with some tips on developing such unique research skills. Knight and Steinbach's article, *Selecting an Appropriate Publication Outlet: A Comprehensive Model of Journal Selection Criteria for Researchers in a Broad Range of Academic Disciplines*, proposes a model for researchers on deciding to which journal they should submit their research manuscript. Knight and Steinbach proposed their model based on five key considerations in the journal selection process. They conclude with some hands-on tips for researchers to better select a targeted journal for their research manuscript, which ultimately can reduce researchers' frustration and increase likelihood of the manuscripts' acceptance. The final article in this volume is a book review by Wise, *Book Review: Doctorates Downunder: Keys to Successful Doctoral Study in Australia and New Zealand*. In this review, she outlines the key aim of the book and its contribution to students' success in their doctoral program. Wise discusses some of the key chapters from the book and concludes with her views related to the issues discussed in the book.

I would like to thank the IJDS advisory board member, Prof. Marc Schniederjans, C. Wheaton Battey Distinguished Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE (USA) for his support of IJDS through the facilitation of the *Doctoral Studies mini-conference* in the 2008 annual meeting of the Decision Science Institute (DSI), Baltimore, MD during November. Additionally, I would like to welcome Victoria Wise (University of Tasmania, Australia) as an IJDS associate editor. Victoria has been an outstanding review for IJDS since the first volume. Additionally, I would like to thank all the current associate editors for their continuous support to IJDS including (in alphabetical order of last name): Irma Becerra-Fernandez (Florida International University,

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USA), Sue Conger (University of Dallas, USA), Nitza Geri (The Open University of Israel, Israel), George M. Marakas (University of Kansas, USA), and Bernd Carsten Stahl (De Montfort University, UK). As always, the work conducted by the IJDS editors is immense. Your continuous outstanding support and dedicated service is the essence of IJDS success. Following prior volumes, I would like to highlight a list of 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):

- Peter H. Antoniou, California State University - San Marcos (USA)
- Baharuddin Aris, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia)
- Nicole Buzzetto-More, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (USA)
- James C. Flowers, Ball State University (USA)
- Zbigniew J. Gackowski, California State University Stanislaus (USA)
- Laurence Habib, University College, Oslo (Norway)
- Chaya Herman, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- Julian Hermida, Algoma University College (Canada)
- Michael Jones, University of Wollongong (Australia)
- Patrick Keleher, Central Queensland University (Australia)
- Cecilia Sik Lanyi, University of Pannonia (Hungary)
- Marlyn Kemper Littman, Nova Southeastern University (USA)
- Michail Kalogiannakis, University Paris 5 - Rene Descartes (France)
- Martha M. Snyder, Nova Southeastern University (USA)
- Amanda Spink, Queensland University of Technology (Australia)
- Alexis Taylor, Brunel University (UK)
- Darla Twale, University of Dayton (USA)
- Morten Vendela, Copenhagen Business School - Department of Informatics (Denmark)
- Niranjala Weerakkody, Deakin University (Australia)
- Victoria Wise, University of Tasmania (Australia)
- Trevor Wilmshurst, University of Tasmania (Australia)

Thank you all for the meticulous reviews and dedicated time!

The sharp increase in journals and other worldwide publication outlets increases the challenge to gather a steady influx of high quality articles in the subject of doctoral studies. Although doctoral studies endeavor is the foundation and qualification for quality academic research, very little research efforts are being done around the world to investigate the challenges and successes faced by doctoral students during their academic years. Specifically, with the increase use of e-learning and other information systems, more research is needed to investigate issues associated with such technologies in the context of doctoral studies. Thus, I would like to use this medium to stress the importance of doctoral studies in the context of exploring, disseminating, and informing research to fellow researchers around the world. I would like to encourage scholars who supervise doctoral dissertations to take charge and, aside from contributing to their own research field, also contribute to the field of doctoral studies. Such contribution can be two fold. The first contribution can be made by writing manuscripts from their experience, while the other contribution can be made by encouraging and guiding research associated with the various aspects of doctoral studies. After all, future research will be immensely limited if we don't keep educating new doctoral students!

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

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