

EDITORIAL NOTE TO AJIC ISSUE 13

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Research on the evolution of the information age reveals that *leadership* is an important ingredient in endeavours to advance electronic communications. As the information age increases in complexity, the greatest challenge appears to lie in the area of leadership, a “curiously unformed” area of theory. This issue publishes articles covering two broad focus areas:

Section I presents a cluster of articles on the theme *Building the information society*, in which scholars research and consider the many facets of the information society, including dimensions of Internet diffusion in Rwanda, critical political theory of online searches, utility versus risk in mobile banking, electronic monitoring and compliance in corporate governance, and case notes on Internet access for senior citizens.

Section II presents a cluster of articles on the theme *Challenges of ICT policy and e-development leadership*, illustrating the complexities of policy network arrangements in Swaziland; policy failure in universal access and service in South Africa; and leadership disengagement in an e-tolls project.

The articles suggest the need for an extensive theorisation of the emerging information economy on the African continent and the related leadership issues. Common questions that arise from these pieces are: What constitutes leadership in the age of the Internet? How should theories of leadership be advanced or reinterpreted to be valuable to decisionmakers and policymakers in an Internet age? To what extent is leadership in the electronic communications era the same as or different from the previous “industrial” era? These and other issues are discussed in the guest editor’s contribution, which draws on existing theory and on an analysis of articles included in this issue to offer ideas on a leadership ontology in the electronic age.

Articles published in this issue include work developed from conference papers presented at the *Sustainable e-government and e-business innovations for Africa* academic conference held at the University of Pretoria in October 2012, as well as unsolicited submissions, many built on postgraduate research. Articles are subject to an in-depth peer review and rigorous editorial process, following which they are posted online as they become publication-ready. Thus articles will be uploaded to the journal webpage on a regular basis and the final annual issue will be constituted when all review and editorial processes have been completed.

For this issue, guidance was taken from the Wharton Global Faculty Development Programme, University of Pennsylvania, held from 05 to 08 August 2013. This programme, conceptualised by Professor Harbir Singh, covered a range of topics intended to guide academics engaged in scholarly publishing, but also highlighted important issues for the consideration of journal editors, such as the challenges of building an extensive, high-powered peer review network. The broad guidance of the work of the National Scholarly Editors Forum led by the Academy of Science of South Africa is also noted.