

iSCHANNEL

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From the Convener

It has been inspiring to see the *i*SChannel make its third edition, and go from strength to strength. As the Editor of the Journal of Information Technology, I know only too well what goes into setting up and running a journal - the staff and students have done a great job so far and I am sure that each new wave of students will contribute and develop the Journal further. I also have great respect for the Journal's objectives. In particular, providing the opportunity to develop the discipline of writing for a journal is hugely valuable. Meeting deadlines, writing well, developing coherent ideas and marshalling evidence are very valuable skills for students and their future careers whether in academic or working life. Also being involved in the creation and delivery of the journal provides very good learning experiences. This is a very creative and highly useful venture which I have supported enthusiastically from the start. So far everyone involved has derived immense benefit from the *i*SChannel. And it helps to underpin the longstanding reputation of the Information Systems and Innovation Group for its focus on student support and development. I look forward very much to the next edition!

Professor Leslie Willcocks
Head of the Information Systems and Innovation Group

From the Faculty Editor

So the *i*SChannel has made it to its third edition. This is a great achievement and a clear message that the journal has become an established part of ISIG's activity. The quality of the journal is increasing and the editorial process is becoming more embedded and streamlined. Those whose names appear in this journal as editor, author or reviewer should be very proud.

As a snapshot of the concerns of ISIG students, the papers make interesting reading. I was particularly struck by Pavlo Tanasyuk's whose concerns over second-life are philosophical, drawing on Dreyfus's phenomenological ideas to question the mind-body duality of the Virtual World. Abhishek Dhingra is similarly concerned with the virtual world of facebook, but grounds his analysis in non-virtual world issues of security and privacy. Other authors' focus on the perennial issues of our field shows that long held concerns continue to be important - IT in healthcare (Yan), Outsourcing (Guilbaud), eGovernment (Monaghan and Savvides) among others. Most importantly however is that each article demonstrates the deeply investigative nature of our approach, drawing on a range of theoretical ideas to make sense of our messy, complex social world. It is this that provides the strength to the *i*SChannel and ensures the quality of its contribution.

But we cannot be complacent and must continue to improve. Each year the editorial team receive a large number of submissions from which it must select a small number for publication. This is not an easy task. Making the job of the editorial board easier will demand changes in the way articles are written and reviews are undertaken. It is my plan to involve faculty and students in a wide-ranging discussion of how we can improve the *i*SChannel publication process for next year. I would like to see more targeted articles written specifically for the *i*SChannel, rather than receiving large numbers of course-essays submitted on-spec. New approaches to writing such as joint-authoring, review articles and interviews will be considered alongside the traditional research article. By improving the writing, review and editorial process my aim is not just to improve the quality of the journal (which is already extremely high) but also to improve the educational benefit of writing and reviewing for the *i*SChannel whatever the outcome.

All this does not diminish the fantastic work of all those involved in this edition of the *i*SChannel. Working to a tight deadline the editorial team have managed the review process fantastically. They have selected an excellent mix of articles, the authors of which must be praised.

Dr Will Venters
Faculty Editor