CONTENT OF THIS ISSUE OF JGITM (VOL. 13, NO. 1, JANUARY 2010)

EDITORIAL PREFACE: THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON POLITICS: THE “NET EFFECT” ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS
Mahesh S. Raisinghani, Texas Woman’s University, mike_rai@yahoo.com
Randy Weiss, Texas Woman’s University, maccabee@aol.com
The Internet has been instrumental in fostering political culture and norms that have potential to increase centralized democratic politics, and establish more diffuse social and civic networks. These important impacts of the Internet are visible in campaigns and elections through the facilitation of communication, organization, and collaboration that are cheaper, broader, and faster than before. The editorial discusses several emerging trends and new issues, and suggests that in order to continue fostering e-democracy, we must focus on constructive engagement, dialogue and “pro-social” community action.

UNIFIED THEORY OF ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY: U.S. VS. CHINA
Viswanath Venkatesh, University of Arkansas, vvenkatesh@vvenkatesh.us
Xiaojun Zhang, University of Arkansas, xzhang@walton.uark.edu
Based on the cultural differences between the U.S. and China, the authors outline the similarities and dissimilarities between the hypotheses specified in the original UTAUT, which was validated in the U.S., and how the relationships will play in the context of employees in China. An empirical study was conducted in a single organization that operated both in the U.S. and China and collected longitudinal data from over 300 employees in one business unit in each of the two countries. The study confirms the hypotheses that social influence will be more uniformly important across all employees, without contingencies related to gender, age and voluntariness that were found to be the case in the U.S. As theorized, other UTAUT hypotheses held both in the U.S. and China. This work contributes by examining culture as a boundary condition and identifies the bounds of generalizability of UTAUT.

THE IMPACT OF CONTEXTUAL FACTORS ON ERP ASSIMILATION: EXPLORATORY FINDINGS FROM A DEVELOPED AND A DEVELOPING COUNTRY
Rafa Kouki, Université Laval, Québec, Canada, Rafa.Kouki@cirrelt.ca
Diane Poulin, Université Laval, Québec, Canada, Diane.Poulin@cirrelt.ca
Robert Pellerin, École Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada, Robert.Pellerin@polymtl.ca
ERP systems are known for significant impact on companies, irrespective of size and industry. ERP research has mostly focused on the selection, evaluation and implementation stages. Failure rates indicate that post--implementation is another essential stage for the success of ERP projects. Based on a qualitative research design using case-study methodology, this study investigates the determinants of ERP assimilation success during the post-implementation stage. This paper compares three Tunisian manufacturing companies with three Canadian manufacturing companies and presents the lessons learned from this analysis.

THE USE OF E-BUSINESS IN AGRIBUSINESS: INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF E-READINESS AND OTE FACTORS
Alemayehu Molla, RMIT University, Australia, Alemayehu.molla@rmit.edu.au
Konrad Peszynski, RMIT University, Australia, Konrad.Peszynski@rmit.edu.au
Siddhi Pittayachawan, RMIT University, Australia, Siddhi.pittayachawan@rmit.edu.au
This study explores antecedents to sector based e-business use. Drawing from the perceived e-readiness model (PERM) and the Organizational, Technological and Environmental (OTE) framework, an integrated e-business use model is proposed. Data were collected from a survey of firms in the horticulture sector in Australia. Empirical analysis shows that e-business use within the horticulture sector is at the initial state of maturity. Technology competence, financial commitment, perceived environmental e-readiness and organizational size are factors that directly affect e-business use. Perceived organizational e-readiness has an indirect influence on e-business use. Practitioners such as governments, horticulture associations, growers and growers associations and digital marketplace operators, through understanding these factors affecting e-business use, can make effective decisions to develop their support, capabilities and offerings respectively.
THE EXPERT OPINION: AN INTERVIEW WITH RYAN SPENCER, VICE PRESIDENT AND CIO AT TK HOLDINGS INC., TAKATA CORPORATION
Conducted by Paul S. Licker, Oakland University, licker@oakland.edu
The interview discusses several issues, e.g., the importance of information technology in their industry and specifically their organization, key technical and managerial challenges in the non-domestic implementation of IT applications, the role of IT in the internationalization of business, cultural issues, and the most important technologies that have facilitated international operations and growth.

BOOK REVIEW: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SYSTEMS, SERVICES, PROCESSES AND PEOPLE IN IT. EDITED BY CLAUDIO BARTOLINI AND LUCIANO PASCHOAL GASPARY, SPRINGER, 2009.
Reviewed by: Roberto Vinaja, Texas A&M University Kingsville, kubrv000@tamuk.edu
The main theme of this book conveys the message that IT management involves much more than managing hardware and software. The richness of IT management includes complex socio-technical factors as well. The collection of chapters provides multiple perspectives on IT integrated management.