

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Three Missing Pieces in Global Information Technology

by Rick Gibson.

Professor Gibson, an Associate Editor for the journal, discusses the very definition of global information technology, the complexity and sophistication of global information systems, and the need for a conceptual framework in global IT.

ARTICLES

Global Information Technology Research: Past, Present and Future.

Author: Prashant Palvia, The University of Memphis, USA.

Abstract: Research into Global Information Technology is only a few years old. However, even in this short span, the definition of global IT has evolved. This article first provides a three-part definition of global IT, and then goes on to examine the state of global IT research to date. Most research until now has been descriptive and exploratory. A case is made for conducting more rigorous and meaningful research in the future. Dubbed as "second generation research in global IT", the various elements of such research are described. The intent is to provide a good foundation for research in global IT.

Mexican Executives' Use of Information Systems: An Empirical Investigation of EIS Use and Impact

Author: Dorothy E. Leidner, INSEAD, France

Abstract: Executive Information Systems are being used in organizations around the world to assist with the increased managerial information needs related to the opening of markets and the globalization of enterprise. This study adapts a model of IS success to the context of EIS in order to examine the potential success of EIS use by Mexican managers to help them cope with their highly competitive environment. Using survey data gathered from 89 Mexican senior and middle managers supplemented by interview data from a subset of the survey respondents, the study examines some antecedents of EIS use, individual impacts of EIS use, and organizational impacts of EIS use. The study suggests that Mexican managers use EIS to monitor internal and external information which enables them to make decisions faster, to have better understanding of their environment, and to engage in more thorough decision analysis. These individual benefits then lead to certain organizational benefits, including a shared vision of goals and performance, improved communication, improved competitive response, and improved decision making effectiveness.

Group Support Systems: Barriers to Adoption in a Cross-Cultural Setting

Authors: Robert Davison, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, and Ernest Jordan,

Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Abstract: This paper develops a model to explain how Group Support Systems (GSS) may be received in different cultural settings - national and organisational. The model is supported by the views of Information Systems professionals regarding the suitability of SS in those different cultural settings. A detailed investigation into the suitability of adopting GSS in organisations in Hong Kong is undertaken with three cases presented here. We argue for greater sensitivity when attempts are made to transfer technology from one culture to another, as well as the need to develop indigenous solutions that do fit with cultural norms. We also believe that studies documenting the organisational use of GSS - successful and unsuccessful - are essential.

THE EXPERT'S OPINION

An interview is conducted with Mr. Giulio Tonin, I.S. Manager at DIESEL in Italy.

Interview conducted by Paola Bielli.

Professor Bielli is on the editorial board of JGITM and a professor of MIS at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. DIESELK is an Italian company in the field of jeans and casual clothing and has customers all over the world. Mr. Tonin describes the IS environment at Diesel which uses advanced technologies such as CAD and databases. While a global company, DIESEL uses common solutions for subsidiaries and uses a centralized IS planning philosophy.

THE BOOK REVIEW

Written by Edward M. Roche. He reviews "**Cyberwars: espionage on the Internet**". The author is Jean Guisnel. Translated from the French by Gui Masai New York and London: Plenum Trade, 1997 ISBN 0-306-45636-2.

This book's author provides extensive coverage of security issues faced by enterprises. The book is a grand tour of the many different issues emerging as companies and individuals work to make the Internet a safe place to do business.