Editorial

In its final issue for 2006 the *Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics* again offers a variety range of business-related research issues that this time range from older people's use of the Internet in Australia to job satisfaction of Taiwanese expatriates. Other articles deal with agricultural innovation systems, plagiarism, letters of credit and technology to isolate software systems and agents from change.

Older people around the world are adopting the Internet at an increasing rate, and in the process are forming virtual community networks in a way that would not otherwise have been possible. In the first article in this issue: *Using Actor-Network Theory to Understanding Virtual Community Networks of Older People Using the Internet*, Lepa and Tatnall make use of actor-network theory to explore the phenomena of older people and their use of the Internet. Some of these Internet interactions, including e-mail, chat groups, community forums and discussion group, relate older people to other older people. Other virtual networks span age groups as when, for instance, a grandmother communicates by e-mail with her grandchildren. The article takes a socio-technical stance and provides an analysis of these virtual networks based on research in an Australian context.

The next article, by Sudath Arumapperuma, deals with *Agricultural Innovation System in Australia*. In the article the author identifies eleven actors: policy, education, finance and credit, marketing, input supply, research, extension and information, logistics, processing and storage, farmers and farm organisations and consumers. The study reveals that the majority of funding for innovation activities comes from the Federal Government and funding bodies, and survey results indicate that the main constrains/incentives are issues including funding, lack of qualified staff, equipment, environmental and Government policy issues.

Darbyshire and Burgess then tackle the issue of plagiarism in an article entitled*: Strategies for Dealing with Plagiarism and the Web in Higher Education*. They note that there were few academic publications dealing with plagiarism prior to the introduction of the Web, but that since its introduction this number has risen, suggesting that plagiarism is occurring on a more frequent basis since the introduction of the Web into university classrooms. In their paper they present a case study, from Victoria University, of changes made to adapt assessment procedures. The case study illustrates different approaches utilised in two different courses, both of which highlight how careful consideration of the design and assessment techniques used in learning activities can reduce or even remove the problem of plagiarism.

Chiu-yi (Pei-Chen) Lee next investigates: *Job Satisfaction Affecting Cross-Cultural Adjustment in Taiwanese Expatriates*. She notes that due to increasing internationalisation of world markets, international expatriate assignments have become essential for many multinational corporations. In this article Lee investigates the relationship between the job satisfaction and cross-cultural adjustment of Taiwanese Bank expatriates assigned to America.

Bergami then looks at: *The Link Between Incoterms 2000 and Letter of Credit Documentation Requirement and Payment Risk*. He begins by noting that letters of credit are an important finance instrument for international trade and are particularly useful where the transactional values and trading risks are high. The article explores the link between international delivery terms and documentary requirements of the letter of credit.

In the final article, Darbyshire investigates: *Using XML to Help Isolate Software Systems and Agents from Change Due to Communications*. Darbyshire notes that research and development related to distributed and agent-based systems has grown enormously over the last few years, and the number of practical applications for such systems has grown along with it as the technology and infrastructure improves to accommodate such systems. With the growth of distributed systems and Service Oriented

Architecture, however, another dimension of change needs to be considered: communication. This paper discusses the use of XML for the construction of agent-based messages, and presents a simple approach for the deconstruction of messages by receiving agents.

All papers in the journal have been subjected to a process of blind peer review by at least two reviewers. Articles were then only accepted after appropriate changes and corrections had been made by the authors. We hope that you find the content of this issue both interesting and readable.

Arthur Tatnall

Editor