The Association for Information Systems (AIS) Special Interest Group for IT Project Management (SIGITProjMgmt) will globally promote and facilitate the creation, presentation and publication of research examining all facets of IT project management, including pedagogical issues. SIGITProjMgmt will also strive to be the global leader in linking and integrating IT project management research and practice.

In this issue

- SIG ITProjMgmt Updates
- Thought Pieces from our Officers
- Previous and Upcoming Events
- Members Corner
- Call for Papers and Submissions
- Connect with us

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall 2018 took off well with a good turnout at AMCIS 2018 in New Orleans. I enjoyed meeting several of you, learning more about your research and it was great to hear about your recent successes. We are now gearing up for our 13th IRWITPM in sunny San Francisco, California for the pre-ICIS workshop in December 2018. I would like to thank all of you who sent in submissions. At the same time, I would like to convey my appreciation to the members who have agreed to review submissions. I strongly feel that our community has been very forthcoming with their support. I hope you will consider joining us for the workshop as we will have with participation from PMI and one of the editors of PMJ. Finally, I would like to let you know about the AIS Communities platform that is coming soon. AIS Communities will provide a microsite for our SIG that will allow more collaboration. The new platform will allow you to create discussion points, share documents, register for AIS affiliated conferences and stay up to date on all things AIS. Again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Please reach out to me, or any of our officers, with any ideas or questions. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the coming year. Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter!

Dawn Owens, Ph.D.
SIGITProjMgmt President
University of Texas at Dallas | dawn.owens@utdallas.edu
SIG ITProjMgmt Updates

Annual Elections

The annual SIGITProjMgmt workshop at ICIS is just around the corner. This year, three leadership positions are up for election: President, Treasurer, and Communications Chair. You are eligible to be an officer if you have been a member for two consecutive years. If you were a member last year, and are going to join this year, you are eligible. We want our members to be excited about serving the needs of the ITPM community.

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the SIG. The President shall perform all duties that pertain to the office of the President and that may be assigned by the Executive Board. In furtherance of, but not in limitation of, the office, the President’s primary duties shall be:

- Preside over all meetings of the members of the SIG.
- Call and chair all Executive Board meetings.
- Designate all committees and their chairpersons, with the concurrence of the Executive Board.
- Supervise all other officers of the SIG and see that their duties are properly performed.
- Accept and receive donations, gifts, devises, and bequests.
- Coordinate the SIG’s activities and conduct any necessary business with external organizations.
- Ensure that all orders and resolutions of the Executive Board are put into effect.
- Submit at the annual general meeting an annual activity report of the operations of the SIG for the preceding year.
- The President will be elected on even numbered years.

Communications Chair: The Communications Chair shall be responsible for communicating with the SIG members about activities and other information related to the SIG. In furtherance of, but in limitation of, the office, the Communications Chair’s duties shall be to:

- Send calls for papers, proposals, and participation to SIG members.
- Notify SIG members and members of the Executive Board of all meetings and reports.
- Develop a quarterly newsletter for SIG members.
- Update the SIG website as needed.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for fiscal matters concerning the SIG, and shall perform all duties that pertain to the office of Treasurer and that may be assigned by the President and the Executive Board. In furtherance of, but not in limitation of, the office, the Treasurer’s primary duties shall be to:

- Maintain the financial records of the SIG and produce an annual financial report.
- Review all applications for membership and maintain a membership roster.
- Submit an annual Financial Report to the AIS Treasurer.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, send your name, e-mail address, and one paragraph stating why you think you will be a good candidate to the chair of the election committee, Ceci Chua (aeh.chua@auckland.ac.nz). Nominations close on Nov. 1, 2018, and elections will be held at our annual business meeting on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 at IRWITPM.

Summary of AMCIS 2018

The SIG reception at AMCIS 2018 in New Orleans was a great success. We had more than 30 members in attendance. Please find some of the pictures from the reception below.
Thought Pieces from our Officers

Managing Academic Research Projects – A Note

By: Mohammad Moeini, Ph.D., University of Sussex, UK.

Each year, billions of dollars are spent on academic research, aiming at timely advancement of knowledge. Many academic research projects, however, are abandoned before they yield a desirable knowledge product, and some produce results that are no longer relevant to the intended audiences. Indeed, conducting innovative research means taking some risks and some failure or delay is inevitable, but as a project risk management scholar, I wonder whether any of these issues are avoidable. Admittedly, this is a broad and ambitious question to address and requires developing a deep understanding of various and contextual risk factors and events. Two examples would be scrapping a project after data analysis does not support the core hypothesis and deserting a research piece after being rejected from targeted journals. Nonetheless, perhaps a small step in this direction would be to explore whether (and under what circumstances) the process of conducting and publishing academic research can become more “agile.” My quick search on this topic returned only a few results. For example, Hicks & Foster (2010) report on managing a research group using Scrum for Research (SCORE), and Hazzan & Tozik (2014) explain a process chiefly aimed at managing doctoral research. Likewise, Rebecca Pope-Ruark’s book on Agile Faculty is an interesting read on this subject. Yet, there is much room left to examine this topic. The early delivery of working knowledge products to relevant academic and practitioner audiences, (e.g., more frequent engagement of journal reviewers with research proposals) deserve further discussion. I believe that our community, researchers with interest and expertise in project management, is positioned in the “sweet spot” for examining, criticizing, promoting, and practicing the agile academic research mindset. I hope that this note serves as a motivation to engage with this topic.
Entropy in the Digital World: Are we ready for it?
By: Gaurav Shekhar, University of Texas at Dallas

Entropy is defined as the lack of predictability. The realm of information systems has embarked in a direction that is unprecedented. Decades ago, when the concept of information systems emerged, the need was very limited, mostly related to transporting data. With the onset of information services, systems resorted to driving businesses, helping in enhancing efficiency and timeliness. In the last few years, the concept of data, data management and information systems has exploded into a form where information systems now are not connected in traditional ways but are giving way to disruptive engines like Platforms. Yes, the word is disruption. A personal computer gave ordinary people access to computers which can do much more than basic arithmetic functions. Now the advent of Digital Platforms has given end users the ability to design their own services and systems. Uber is a classic example. Today the modern user is no longer dependent on the need to have a finished product. Platforms enable them to create a service or a system as per their needs. Ionic for example is a great platform for App development. The idea that I am trying to bring is the relevance of information systems and Practitioners in the gamut of things. The profile of a typical IT consumer has changed, and information systems are now evolving with the consumer at the center of things. We have a great opportunity to engage in research around the position of the consumer in the new order.

As Secretary of the SIG ITProjMgmt, I have had the pleasure of working with some of the brightest members of the academia who have been researching in areas that touch the rapidly changing world of information systems. Digital Competitiveness will decide how companies stay ahead of each other. Project Management has always been the core of IT successes and will continue to remain the most indispensable tool for organizations. I would encourage you to engage with other SIGITProjMgmt members to continue to explore how we can continue to shape the world together with cutting edge solutions.

Member’s Corner

In the last issue of the newsletter we conducted a survey. Thank you to all who responded. We wanted to share the results with you.

- Most of you liked the new format and didn’t want to recommend any changes.
- You wanted to see more pictures from the earlier events, something we tried incorporating in this issue.
- News about upcoming events was also greatly appreciated.
- There was a request for a Facebook Fan page, something we will work in the coming months.

Overall the feedback was very positive, and we appreciate the fact that you do like the activities and events organized by the SIG.

Upcoming Events

**13th Annual IRWITPM**

The 13th International Research Workshop on Information Technology Project Management (IRWITPM), is right around the corner. The workshop will feature research papers, a workshop from PMI, our sponsor, and an update from PMJ’s editor. Please consider registering for the workshop on Thursday, December 13th.

Connect with Us

We hope that you will consider participating in the activities of this group. When you apply or renew your AIS membership, select SIGITProjMgmt from the list of special interest groups when prompted. You can also add SIGITProjMgmt to your current membership at any time. Connect with us on any of the following mediums.
Call for Papers

CFP: Managing Information Technology Projects in a Digital World – ECIS 2019

We invite submissions to the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS) to the “Managing Information Technology Projects in a Digital World” track. This track welcomes papers that improve our understanding of IT projects on societal, organizational, group, and individual level. We are especially interested in papers that advance theory and practice for emerging contexts such as agility, innovation, and organizational contexts where IT projects are conducted. We welcome all types of research, including empirical, conceptual, and design science studies that address social and technical aspects of IT projects. Click here for a full track description.

ECIS 2019 will be held on June 12-14, 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden. Submissions are due on November 27, 2018 with final decisions made on February 28, 2019. For more information, contact the track chairs:

Manuel Wiesche, Technische Universität München, Germany. Email: wiesche@in.tum.de

Stacie Petter, Baylor University, USA. Email: Stacie_Petter@baylor.edu

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Sponsors

We would like to extend a thank you to our sponsors this year and don’t miss the academic resources at pmi.teach.org.

Call for Newsletter Articles

We invite you to submit items to the upcoming issue of the AIS SIGProjMgmt newsletter (Volume 10, Issue 2). Please send your submissions to Mohammad Moeini, m.moeini@sussex.ac.uk by February, 1 2019. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Short essay/opinion/research study (500-1500 words).
2. IT Project Management book review (500-1500 words).
3. IT Project Management teaching ideas, cases, sample syllabus, etc.
4. Industry Voice, we welcome PM related essays from industry professionals.
5. Brief introduction of interesting IT Project Management journals and/or special issues, including citation information, brief description, table of content (for special issues), etc.
6. CFP for IT Project Management related journals or conferences.

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