

The Journal of Information Technology for Development

Background

The Journal of Information Technology for Development (ITD) is a forum for research and application of Information Technology (IT) infrastructures in emerging economies and their relationships with the developed world. It is the first journal to have explicitly addressed global information technology issues by publishing social and technical research on the subject. It was first published by Oxford University Press over twenty years ago as the flagship Journal for the Information Technology for Development research community. Funding was obtained for the Journal in 1993 by two International Development Funding Agencies, the Commonwealth Secretariat in the UK and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada to reflect a practitioner focus. Since it has been published by IOS Press and distributed to institutions globally to be read by researchers and practitioners. The Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development Foundation (COMNET-IT) in Malta currently distributes and manages the Journal (<http://www.comnet-it.org>).

The new and distinctive characteristic of this Journal is that it is connected with Information Technology forums for policy makers, practitioners in the field and academics. ITD's partnership with the COMNET-IT foundation demonstrates this distinction. COMNET-IT is a forum for Information Technology policy-makers who participate in its activities of good governance, e-commerce, science and technology and capability-building activities that provide the context for the application of Information Technology. They represent the international leaders that recognize the importance of IT as an economic driver and make decisions with respect to investments in technical, legal and human infrastructures. The *Commonwealth Secretary General, HE Rt Hon. Donald C. McKinnon*, represents this view well: "Information Technology, often described as the key enabler in the overwhelming process of globalization, presents us with a paradox and another challenge: the inherent tendencies towards dominance of some forms of thought, culture and business can be tempered by the potential of Information Technology (particularly the Internet) to preserve local and regional cultures, expressions and economic interests. This may be one of the areas requiring policy awareness initiatives in conjunction with organisations such as COMNET-IT and other international development agencies."

The challenge facing researchers, practitioners and policy makers is to achieve significant, measurable improvements in people's lives, their communities and the economies in which they may prosper. These improvements can be achieved through effective research and development of IT infrastructures. Research is also required that is relevant to managers working to maximise opportunities IT has presented for their business. For example strategies for sourcing goods in the less developed countries and marketing services to the more developed countries of the world are required. Best practices for working in the different countries are needed that will enable the modern manager to become truly global. Theories and frameworks are required that explain the effects of IT. In addition, tools and techniques for ascertaining the effects of IT infrastructures in government, civil society and the private sector need to be developed.

ITD is well placed to meet these challenges through its established readership that revolves around international research and practitioner communities. This Journal represents a move in the development debate towards current issues affecting organisations in the varied and growing economies of the world. These issues relate to the need for IT, policy and marketing infrastructures that help provide the conditions in which people and organisations in the emerging economies can reach out and work with the rest of the world. It also addresses techniques for researching and measuring the value of Information Technology in these economies and their relation to the more advanced economies of the world. Examples of papers published in this journal are: "Business to Business Electronic Commerce in Developing Economies?: The case of the South Africa Manufacturing Sector", "Computer Technology Adoption in Saudi Arabia" and "Intellectual Property Rights in Computer Software".

The College of Information Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) is particularly well suited to house the Journal of Information Technology for Development. Its community of scholars and students carry out research in IT that is relevant to practice. Its constituents are businesses and international organisations that require advances in IT skills, expertise and infrastructure to remain competitive. Together with these institutions, COMNET-IT and UNO's College of Information Science and Technology, the Journal is set to publish cutting edge research that is relevant and pertinent.



**College of Information Science and Technology
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The Journal of Information Technology for Development

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Aims and Objectives

ITD is being re-launched with a new vision that explicitly symbolises the role of IT in development as a prime enabler of people-centred development across the development triad. This triad comprises government, civil society and the private sector. ITD recognises that the field of Information Technology for Development affects the transition and developed economies of the world across this triad. This is no longer the exclusive subject of research in developing countries. Sourcing strategies encompass multiple organizations in countries that may be developed, in transition or considered developing. There is a need to establish yardsticks for measuring results, not just for developing countries but for developed countries that help to fund development programs and for the multilateral institutions that help countries implement them.

The objective of the Journal of Information Technology for Development is to honour its fundamental duty to foster research and practice in the development of scalable Information Technology infrastructures. It will also foster research in policy and marketing infrastructures and infrastructures to help provide the conditions in which people and organisations in transition economies can reach out and work with the rest of the world. In order to honour this duty, the Journal addresses techniques for researching and measuring the value of Information Technology in the transition economies, developing world and their relation to the more advanced economies of the world. It reports on Case Studies, Field Studies and Action Research that provide insight, evidence and results relating to the adoption, diffusion and value of Information Technology for Development. Theory development, concepts and constructs are required to explain and predict the effect of Information Technology Infrastructures and their applicability to various global environments. At the same time insight and experiential knowledge from practitioners in the field is just as valuable in ensuring the important questions are asked and discussed. The Journal aims to encompass both types of papers to produce an outlet for research and practice relevant to the global world economy.

This Journal provides a window into the Information Technology developments in the countries of the world that are on the rise. It aims to publish research that leverages electronic networks for social and economic development by using Information Technology for resource mobilization in developing countries and transition economies. The management of intellectual capital and its mobilization from multiple geographically dispersed locations for key projects is a key consideration addressed by the Journal. This has implications for Commerce: to actively share resources and knowledge, improve environment for multiple players, and foster indigenous capacity and research.

The Journal of Information Technology for Development

Call for Papers

Contributions to the Journal are solicited that address IT for Development. Papers that address electronic networks for social and economic development as well as the use of Information Technology for resource mobilization in developing countries and transition economies are particularly welcome. The management and mobilization of intellectual capital has implications for fostering indigenous capacity for commerce. IT for Development considers IT, policy and commerce infrastructures as well as sourcing strategies, policy making, international legal frameworks, the effects of online communities and research methods for measuring effects of IT. Both qualitative and quantitative research that considers the value of IT for development is appropriate for ITD. Papers submitted to the Journal should explicitly state their methods and approaches: Field studies, case studies, action research and innovative online data collection methods are strongly recommended. Theory development, frameworks and models for studying and applying IT are also welcome. Papers that address but are not limited to the topics listed below should be submitted to ITD:

Development Issues

- Best practices.
- International legal frameworks
- IT and the global community
- IT and the emergence of the knowledge society
- International ICT dialogues and discourses: Implications for developed and transition economies
- Consultation and collaboration across the digital differences
- Adoption and diffusion of IT and Rate of uptake
- Security of network infrastructures, Public Key Infrastructure
- Scalable infrastructures for development
- Sustainable development in developing and transition economies

IT Policy

- IT Infrastructures for public administration and reform
- IT Infrastructure for public administration and reform (legal framework, HRD frameworks)
- eGovernance for good government (eGovernment, eDemocracy and eBusiness)
- International commerce and development

- Public Policy for the IT Industry
- Innovations in capacity building for ICT development (education in IT, skills for ICT development)
- Debt financing strategies and developments
- IT Strategies for Development (national and sectoral)

Electronic Commerce, Collaborative Commerce and Electronic Collaboration

- eGovernment: Procurement: public procurement information systems
- Metropolitan growth and Global Information Systems (GIS)
- Sourcing strategies: netsourcing
- Outsourcing web enabled strategies
- Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) access to public procurement systems
- Open sourcing, Online Communities
- eCommerce Security

Health Informatics

- Innovations in bioinformatics
- Information for action in healthcare
- Health information systems
- Rural Health Infrastructures

Submissions to ITD may be either full research papers (maximum 9000 words) published in the main part of the Journal, or commentaries published in the section "Views from Practice" (maximum 2000 words). Full research papers will be reviewed by at least three members of the editorial board for quality, consistency and research contribution. Authors are welcome to nominate an editorial board member for review when submitting their paper. Particular attention will be paid to the use of chosen research method.

Papers submitted to this journal must contain original results and must not be submitted elsewhere. Please submit papers electronically in MSWord, RTF or compatible format to ITD@ist.unomaha.edu. Questions regarding submissions should be directed to: Sajda Qureshi, The Editor-in-Chief Journal of Information Technology for Development, squreshi@ist.unomaha.edu.

The Journal may be obtained free-of charge as part of membership to the Commonwealth Network of Information Technology for Development (COMNET-IT). For information on COMNET-IT and its policy forums, and membership please contact: Henry Alamango, Executive Director COMNET-IT, henry.d.alamango@gov.mt.

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