

# Editorial Preface

## *International Journal of Doctoral Studies (Vol. 1)*

It is a great challenge to bring a new journal into the world, especially when the journal aims to publish high quality manuscripts. In addition, although doctoral studies have been a major focus for most of us and many scholars understand their value, only a few spend their time actually exploring related issues. Despite both these challenges, this journal aims to provide readers worldwide with high quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles on a wide variety of issues related to doctoral studies in areas such as informing science, information systems, information technology, information science, information security, and IT education. My recent discussions with Gordon Davis and other distinguished scholars indicate that there is a great need for such a journal.

In order to position IJDS as the most authoritative journal on doctoral studies, a group of highly valuable scholars have agreed to serve on the editorial board. I am honored to have five associate editors: Sue Conger (University of Dallas), Nitzza Geri (The Open University of Israel), Frederick G. Kohun (Robert Morris University), George M. Marakas (University of Kansas), and Bernd Carsten Stahl (De Montfort University). I'm also delighted with our group of International Review Board members consisting of scholars from 13 countries worldwide that are actively serving on doctoral dissertation committees, supervising doctoral dissertations, and teaching doctoral level courses. With our editorial board's cumulative experience on doctoral education, this journal brings a substantial representation of the field of doctoral studies in the disciplines noted. Without the service and dedication of our editorial board, IJDS would have never existed.

This inaugural volume includes four manuscripts. Atwell's article, *Designing an Indonesian leadership training program: Reflections upon decisions made*, explores the role of design decisions and leadership training programs on research projects such as doctoral research in the context of schools in Eastern Indonesia. The article concludes that the two key design elements of the research are a) awareness of community context, and b) a need to match style delivery and reflective activity to the participant group. Both key elements appear to be important for future programs. Ali and Kahun's article, *Dealing with isolation feelings in IS doctoral programs*, explores issues related to isolation among Information Systems (IS) doctoral students and how such feelings are associated with the decision to persist in their doctoral program. The article outlines the four stages of the doctoral program and investigates how reducing the feeling of isolation is a key factor in reducing attrition throughout the four stages. The article also suggests some counter measures or solutions for institutions to follow which may lead to the minimization of isolation and in turn may reduce attrition from IS doctoral programs. Fink's article, *The professional doctorate: Its relativity to the Ph.D. and relevance for the knowledge economy*, explores the relevance of professional doctorate (ProfDoc) to practice and its theoretical comparison to the traditional Ph.D. program. The article discusses a professional Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) in IS and provides a rationale for ProfDoc to emerge as *the* desirable doctoral qualification in the knowledge economy. Earl-Novell's article, *Determining the extent to which program structure features and integration mechanisms facilitate or impede doctoral student persistence in mathematics*, explores the extent to which programs structure features and integrate mechanisms that facilitate or impede doctoral student persistence. Results suggest that persistence in a doctoral program depends heavily on the student's perceived ownership of his or her research topic and sufficient input from the dissertation advisor/chair.

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In the coming year, it is my vision to have IJDS publish a combination of manuscripts documenting rigorous studies in the area of doctoral studies, and one or more manuscripts from a distinguished scholar on recent doctoral studies issues. As you read throughout this inaugural volume of IJDS, I would like to remind you that the success of our journal depends directly on the number of quality articles submitted for review. Accordingly, I would like to request your participation by submitting quality manuscripts for review and encouraging your colleagues to submit quality manuscripts for review. One of the great benefits we can provide to our prospective authors, regardless of acceptance of their manuscript or not, is the mentoring nature of our review process. IJDS provides authors with high quality, helpful reviews that are shaped to assist authors in improving their manuscripts.

I very much appreciate your support as we strive to make IJDS the most authoritative journal on doctoral studies.

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