

## Editorial Preface

### *International Journal of Doctoral Studies (Vol. 5)*

This year, the *International Journal of Doctoral Studies* (IJDS) was honored with an important achievement for all the hard work done by the journal's authors, editorial review board members, and editors when the 2010 Australian Government Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative Ranking came out. The IJDS was ranked as a "B," exceeding the rank of many well-established information system journals. We hope to keep maintaining such honor and continue to seek external recognitions for IJDS by indexing it in recognized databases. With assistance from the editorial review board members, editors, the managing editor, Eli Cohen, and our publisher Elizabeth Boyd, we're continuing the growth of IJDS into all fields of research while ensuring it is the most authoritative journal on doctoral studies. We continue to welcome quality submissions on research related to doctoral studies in all fields of research that offer doctoral degrees, including (but certainly not limited to) arts, business, computer science, criminal justice, decision sciences, education, engineering, health, humanities, information technology, information systems, law, medicine, management, nursing, oceanography, psychology, sciences, social studies, and interdisciplinary doctoral programs. We also welcome book reviews on relevant issues related to doctoral studies.

This fifth volume of IJDS includes seven manuscripts. The first article by Jiranek, *Potential Predictors of Timely Completion among Dissertation Research Students at an Australian Faculty of Sciences*, represents a substantial empirical investigation of data regarding nearly 1,700 students collected over 10 years span and provides phenomenal information on various demographic trends in Australian doctoral programs. The second article by Brailsford, *Motives and Aspirations for Doctoral Study: Career, Personal, and Inter-personal Factors in the Decision to Embark on a History Ph.D.*, reports on a field interview for the motivations to embark on doctoral studies. His findings report that encouragements from individuals' close social network were the primary motivators to start such educational endeavor. The third article by Samuel and Kohun, *Managing Perceived Coping Behavior While Mentoring Doctoral Students*, discusses an exploratory research study that combined quantitative survey and ethnography observational methods to assess the relationship between student's cognitive style, the environment and culture of a doctoral program, and perceived coping behavior. Their findings are interesting as they report on changes in cognitive styles and coping behavior due to doctoral programs. They provide evidence that the doctoral program is indeed a life changing event. The fourth article by Gardner, *Faculty Perspectives on Doctoral Student Socialization in Five Disciplines*, documents an interview-based investigation of 16 faculty members on their interactions with doctoral students and their perceptions about doctoral students' socializations. Her findings are interesting especially in the context of interdisciplinary programs where lack of structure may yield some socialization problems that must be looked at when such doctoral programs are offered. The fifth article by Benge, Onwuegbuzie, Mallette, and Burgess, *Doctoral Students' Perceptions of Barriers to Reading Empirical Literature: A Mixed Analysis*, reports on a multi-stage mixed analysis study using 205 doctoral students assessing their reading ability level and perceived barriers to reading empirical articles. Their intriguing findings indicate that doctoral students entering the programs have deficiencies in basic literacy skills and need assistance in learning how to find, read, as well as comprehend quality scholarly articles. The sixth article by Stoilescu, a doctoral student, and his mentor, McDougall, *Starting to Publish Academic Research as a Doctoral Student*, discusses the importance for doctoral students to 'get their feet wet' when it comes to publishing scholarly research. They argue for the establishment and development of a momentum for doctoral students to publish research and academic related manuscripts. They touch on additional related important issues

for doctoral students including ethical and social issues associated with the process of academic publications. The seventh and last article of this IJDS volume is a book review by Stoilescu, *Book Review: Write to the Top! How to Become a Prolific Academic*, which outlines Johnson and Mullen's 11-chapters book (2007) *Write to the Top* and is nicely related to the sixth article.

As in prior years, I would like to thank the IJDS advisory board members, Prof. Marc Schniederjans, C. Wheaton Battey Distinguished Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, NE (USA) and Prof. Niv Ahituv, The Marko and Lucie Chaoul Chair for Studies in Information Evaluation Academic, Director of Netvision Institute for Internet Studies, Tel Aviv University (Israel) for their continuous support of IJDS. Additionally, I would like to welcome Michael Jones, University of Wollongong (Australia) who agreed to serve IJDS in the capacity of associate editor. Michael has been doing outstanding reviews for IJDS in prior years and his dedicated work is very much appreciated. Additionally, I would like to thank Irma Becerra-Fernandez (Florida International University, USA) for her prior service to IJDS as she moves on to take additional responsibilities. Separately and very sincerely, I would like to thank all the current associate editors for their continuous support to IJDS including (in alphabetical order of last name): Nicole Buzzetto-More, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (USA), Sue Conger (University of Dallas, USA), Nitza Geri (The Open University of Israel, Israel), George M. Marakas (University of Kansas, USA), Bernd Carsten Stahl (De Montfort University, UK), Steven R. Terrell, Nova Southeastern University (USA), and Victoria Wise, Deakin University (Australia). No words can describe how thankful we all are for the immense work and dedicated service you all provide to IJDS. IJDS achievements and continuous success are acknowledgment of your dedicated service and outstanding support. Also, thanks to my assistant to the editor-in-chief, Michael Reid, Loma Linda University (USA), for his continuous assistance. To keep our tradition going, I would like to highlight and thank dearly for the following outstanding International Review Board members who served as reviewers for one or more manuscripts submitted this year to IJDS (in alphabetical order of last name):

- Azad Ali, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- Baharuddin Aris, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia)
- Ian Brailsford, University of Auckland (New Zealand)
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- Vishwa Mohan Vangari, Osmania University (India)
- Morten Vendelo, Copenhagen Business School - Department of Informatics, Denmark
- Ling Wang, Nova Southeastern University (USA)
- Trevor Wilmshurst, Trevor Wilmshurst (Australia)

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all your efforts in reading and critically evaluating IJDS manuscripts throughout this year. Your valuable contributions and mentorships are substantial in improving the quality of manuscripts both to the authors whose work has been published in this IJDS volume, as well as to the authors whose papers were not published in IJDS. Your scholarly efforts are very important to ensure the quality of papers published and the success of IJDS.

With the continued efforts to extend the mission of IJDS, we welcome quality and qualified reviewers to serve in all levels of our editorial board. If you, or someone you know, have been involved or have experience with doctoral students' supervisions, teaching doctoral level courses, serving on doctoral dissertations, or guiding doctoral research in any field of research, we would like to have you as part of our editorial team. If you would like to join the IJDS editorial review board, please e-mail me your CV or resume with brief note on your experiences noted above. Please note that experience with one or more activities mentioned above is a requirement to serve on the IJDS editorial board.

As we continue to sustain IJDS as the most authoritative journal on doctoral studies, we greatly appreciate your support and readership.

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