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A Retrospective and Prospective Perspective on the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems*

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Abstract

The *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* has published two issues per year from 2015 through 2023. The open access journal has fostered research and teaching on information systems and information technology in the Midwest through its openness to a variety of research methodologies, topics, and perspectives. Special issues on health information systems and information security, privacy, and ethics have been published along with several manuscripts on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Midwest businesses and universities. The journal will continue to focus on information systems and information technology research focused on the Midwest and beyond while encouraging additional special issues and research on leading edge topics of interest to scholars and business practitioners.

Keywords: information systems; information technology; Midwest; research techniques; pedagogy; technological innovation; agriculture; high-speed Internet; societal impacts

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1. Introduction

This manuscript details the current status of the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* including its publication schedule, focus, and editorial board. The manuscript then continues with an assessment of the topical and methodological nature of the articles published by the journal. Key topic areas encouraged for future issues are discussed including pedagogical issues, technological innovation, high-speed Internet access, information technology in agriculture, information technology in support of businesses serving an aging population, and societal impact of information systems and technology.

2. On the Current State of the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems*

The *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* began publication in 2015 after approval by the Midwest Association for Information Systems Executive Committee in 2013 (*Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* home page, n.d.). The journal publishes two issues per year, one in January and one in July. The journal encourages interdisciplinary research related to information systems and information technology from a wide variety of perspectives including both technical and behavioral topics (*Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* home page, n.d.). In order to promote a wide readership in the Midwest region and beyond, the journal has adopted an open access philosophy with manuscripts available through the journal website as well as the AIS eLibrary (AIS eLibrary, n.d.).

The journal has been served by two Editors-in-Chief: Daniel Power and Joey F. George. Rassule Hadidi has served as Managing Editor throughout the life of the journal. Twelve Senior Editors and seventeen Associate Editors round out the Editorial Board (*Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* editorial board, n.d.). The journal has a history of providing timely and developmental reviews with an emphasis on scholarly rigor and relevance (*Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* reviewing process, n.d.).

The *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* has been characterized by an openness in topic, methodology, and geography. In addition to empirical and conceptual research papers focused on key technical and behavioral issues in the field, the journal has published a number of pedagogical papers (e.g., Eierman & Iversen, 2018; Hadidi & George, 2022; Lebens, 2021; Luse & Burkman, 2018; Mitchell, 2018; Muraski, 2023) as well as papers focused on academic program design and development (e.g., Hosack & Sagers, 2015; Strader & Bryant, 2018). The journal has also been open to publishing teaching cases (e.g., Harb et al., 2015), teaching tips and experiences (e.g., Klein et al., 2015), and literature reviews (e.g., Acuña, 2016). While some manuscripts published by the journal have a decidedly Midwestern flavor (e.g., Hadidi et al., 2016; Power & Hadidi, 2019), others have an international focus (Bassani et al., 2016; George & Rob, 2021; Guo & Klein, 2020; Kenny et al., 2017).

Two special issues focus on health information systems (Heavin, 2017) and on information security, privacy and ethics (Biros, 2020), while papers in recent issues have increased our understanding of the regional and global implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on our teaching and research (George & Hadidi, 2022; Hadidi & George, 2022; Power & Hadidi, 2021).

The journal has also become a valuable source for researchers interested in learning leading edge research techniques and tools with papers focused on the application of R for web scraping (Krotov & Tennyson, 2021) and the use of Mechanical Turk for collecting data in behavioral studies (Young & Young, 2019).

As we reflect on the state of the journal at the end of its ninth year of publication, we find an outlet that has consistently built a strong tradition of developing and disseminating research findings on information systems and information technology in the Midwest region and beyond. We find an outlet for pedagogical work that fosters and encourages excellence in the universities and colleges of our region. And we find a journal to which academics can turn as they seek to develop and refine their research and teaching skills in the face of technological change and global challenges. Academics working in the field have every reason to be thankful for the tireless work of Rassule Hadidi, Dan Power, and Joey George who have worked tirelessly to establish and develop a thriving journal focused on information systems and information technology in a Midwestern context.

3. The Future of the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems*

Moving forward, the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* will continue its tradition of open access with publication scheduled two times a year. Supported by a robust editorial board, the journal will offer developmental and timely reviews of prospective manuscripts and will be open to papers reporting research using a wide variety of methodologies, theoretical perspectives, and topics. We encourage both behavioral and technical research on topics related to information systems and information technology. While continuing its commitment to research focused on the Midwest, a parallel openness to wider geographic perspectives will persist. Finally, the journal will encourage scholars to propose and organize special issues focused on topics of interest.

The following are highlighted as areas on which prospective authors may wish to focus.

Pedagogical Issues Related to Teaching and Learning. Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts focused on pedagogical research studies, teaching tips, and teaching cases. The journal encourages the submission of manuscripts focused on individual courses, interdisciplinary teaching efforts, and program development and review. Continued focus on post-pandemic pedagogical issues is encouraged including, but not limited to, efforts related to enrollment declines currently affecting some institutions in the Midwest region and beyond.

Technological Innovation Including Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Platforms. Economic development in the Midwest is likely to increasingly rely on technological innovations such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and platforms. The journal invites manuscripts focused on research and teaching related to these innovations. Manuscripts focused on organizational change in Midwestern companies, industries, and universities related to these innovations is especially encouraged.

High-Speed Internet Access in Rural Areas of the Midwest. Organizations and end users in rural areas of the Midwest have until recently had limited high-speed Internet access. Recent federal funding (Biden-Harris Administration, 2023) will soon transform economic and educational opportunities in these previously underserved areas. The journal welcomes research and teaching papers focused on this transformation including challenges and opportunities that are likely to arise.

Information Technology Opportunities and Effects in Agriculture. The Midwestern region of the United States is characterized by a robust agricultural industry (Agriculture in the Midwest, n.d.). As noted by Power and Hadidi (2019), information systems and information technology have the potential to alter agricultural practices and the resulting productivity and output of the industry. The journal encourages research on these effects as well as efforts to increase our understanding of how to best deploy these technologies in the agricultural industry.

Information Technology in Support of Businesses Serving an Aging Population. United States Census Bureau data indicate that the population of the United States is continuing to age with a median age in 2022 of 38.9 (America is getting older, 2023). This demographic trend poses challenges for society generally as well as for business organizations of many types. Information technology has the potential to address the needs of an aging population through innovations such as self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, robotics, and platforms for the delivery of medical products and services. Drone delivery of prescription medications offers an example of one way in which information technology may transform the lives of older Midwesterners living in rural areas (Prescription Drug Delivery, 2023; Tap into Zipline's, n.d.). The journal welcomes research focused on these challenges and opportunities.

Societal Impact of Information Systems and Information Technology. Standard 9 of the AACSB 2020 Guiding Principles and Standards for Business Accreditation places increased emphasis on the societal impact of business schools' strategies and outcomes (AACSB, 2022). Information systems and information technology have the potential to facilitate societal impacts for individuals, business organizations, educational institutions, and communities. The journal encourages research and teaching manuscripts focused on these impacts.

4. Conclusion

The author wishes to thank Dan Power who served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Midwest Association for Information Systems* from 2015 through 2021, Rassule Hadidi who has served as the Managing Editor from 2015 until the present, Joey George who has served as Editor-in-Chief from 2021 through the present, and members of the Editorial Board who have served from 2015 through the present. Without the service and expertise of these individuals, the

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