AJIS Submission Guidelines, Focus, and Scope

Focus and Scope

The African Journal of Information Systems (AJIS) provides a high caliber scholarly research journal in information and communication technology (ICT). The focus of AJIS is to acquaint a broad audience of readers in the variety of intellectual traditions included under the rubric of ICT in Africa. Therefore, the journal aims at disseminating research on the transfer, diffusion, and adoption of ICT within the context of Africa; the innovation and development of ICT solutions for and within this context; impacts of ICT on society and of society on ICT; and other relevant normative, empirical, and theoretical concerns of ICT development, implementation, strategy, management and policy that are distinctive to Africa and associated developing economies. Africa, when compared to most other continents remains in a precarious situation. While ICT have made significant inroads into the continent over the past decade and are beginning to contribute substantively to development, there remains a dire need for:

- The development and archiving of a rich body of knowledge on ICT that is specific to the continent of Africa. While there are a number of specialized journals that cater to ICT research, there are few articles that focus on Africa, more so on Sub Saharan Africa. To bridge this gap and fill this critical need, AJIS will provide an avenue to disseminate research on ICT in Africa and similar developing economies
- The advancement of opportunities for publishing scientific research among the citizenry of the continent with a view to increasing the number of ICT scholars and researchers stationed in Africa that participate in the global ICT arena. To this end AJIS aims to increase participation of scholars from Africa and other regions of the world in disseminating ICT research and best practices that touch on or address specific issues in Africa and associated developing economies.

Therefore, the AJIS seeks to provide a distinctive African perspective on the theory and practice of information systems. The journal encourages submissions of first rate research articles by academicians, but also case studies and reflective articles by practitioners. Given that the AJIS seeks to

be a conduit, not only for reporting high caliber scholarly research, but also for facilitating the teaching of ICT to prospective practitioners and researchers, AJIS also includes a section on practice and implementation which encompasses (a) reports on field conditions, (b) issues of field methodology, (c) downloadable data sets useful for teaching, (d) ICT cases that have been designed for varying levels of instruction, and (e) editorials. Such sections are designed to enhance the availability of teaching resources, to help us incorporate ICT research into our teaching, and to explore professional issues confronting our field. Besides the focus of its contents, AJIS is unlike most journals in that it is both fully electronic and fully paper-based in format. Our goal is not simply to provide an Internet accessible version of a journal that appears in print. Rather AJIS intends to exploit the electronic medium to its fullest degree. AJIS includes immediate archiving of the journal and an ability to search current issues and archived material. We encourage authors to include audio and video files as integral parts of their articles and data sets. In all these ways, AJIS fills a gap in ICT research. At the same time, like other top publications, AJIS remains committed to upholding the highest standards of scholarship. All submissions go through a process of anonymous peer review. We are proud to have an outstanding editorial board which works with us to ensure that only research of the highest caliber is published.

AJIS was founded with partial support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is hosted at Kennesaw State University and jointly supported by the International Center for Information Technology and Development (ICITD), Southern University and A&M College.

Peer Review Process

AJIS employs a double blind peer review process. Papers considered will have an African focus and will fall under three major academic categories and one practitioner section:

1. Research Articles: These are full length articles grounded in theory. In these articles, the fundamental objective of the authors is to conduct empirical or conceptualize work that confirms or extends existing theories and/or develops new theories.

2. Commentaries and Cases: Commentaries are short articles that critique, extend or comment on research previously published in peer reviewed sources—particularly on issues relating to ICT in Africa. For example, an article could critique the methodology, perspectives or biases/assumptions evident in dominant research on privatization of ICTs in

Africa. These articles could also present real-world cases of innovative implementation of established theories, processes and ICT applications. Commentaries and cases must be research-based and not mere opinions of the author. This article would typically be shorter than research articles and discuss incremental findings or actual experiences from the ICT field.

3. Teaching Notes: One of the primary missions of AJIS is to contribute to the advancement of ICT education in Africa. To this end, the journal will remain receptive to considering significant research relevant to the teaching, pedagogy and learning of ICT within the socio-cultural context of Africa.

4. Practitioner Views: Another primary missions of AJIS is to bridge the gap between practice and research. To this end, the journal will remain receptive to considering practitioner views from CIOs, executives, and thought leaders of ICT within the context of Africa.

Author Guidelines

ALL articles must be submitted through the AJIS online submission system: http://www.ajisonline.com (or at http://DigitalCommons.Kennesaw.edu/ajis). Click on the "My Account" menu item found at the top-left corner of the journal homepage and login with your username and password to access the submission page or click on the sign-up button to create a new account if you don't already have one.

The formatting requirements for AJIS are provided in the Word document titled "AJIS Template for paper submission" also found on the website. You can use this document as a template for submitting papers to the AJIS by copying and directly pasting your paper content into the template (this might be the best and easiest way to submit a formatted paper that rigorously follows the AJIS submission guidelines). Please be sure to adhere to the formatting requirements for both review and camera-ready version. Note that your submission for the review version should not have any author affiliations while the camera-ready version must include all author information. When you initially submit your paper for the blind review you must remove all author information; the submission process captures your author information separately, hence the editors will use this information to identify you in the blind submission. You submit the camera-ready version only after you receive confirmation from the editor that your paper is accepted for publication.

Once you submitted the camera-ready version a PDF format will be directly generated for publication. Please note that: (1) each submitted article should have a separate cover page that lists the title of the article, authors' names and affiliations, authors' contact information and a clear indication of the corresponding author; (2) an abstract that should not exceed 150 words; (3) a list of up to five keywords, and; (4) starting on a new page, the main paper including all materials and sections such as figures, tables, and references. Please repeat the title of the paper at the start of the main paper.

Once again we recommend that you copy and paste your paper to the "AJIS Template for paper submission" Word document provided on the website.

Authors that submit research papers will automatically be entered as a reviewer for AJIS.

Submission Preparation Checklist

As part of the submission process, authors are required to check off their submission's compliance with all of the following items, and submissions may be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- The submission has not been previously published, nor is it before another journal for consideration (or an explanation has been provided in Comments to the Editor).
- The submission file is in Microsoft Word, RTF, or WordPerfect document file format.
- Where available, URLs for the references have been provided.
- The text is single-spaced; uses a 12-point font; employs italics, rather than underlining (except with URL addresses); and all illustrations, figures, and tables are placed within the text at the appropriate points, rather than at the end.
- The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements.
- If submitting to a peer-reviewed section of the journal be sure to submit a review version of your paper which is blinded, i.e. all author information removed.

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