

# **Special issue of Information Technology and People on *Information Systems and Technology for Human Benefit: Design Science and Diffusion Research***

## **Guest Editors**

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## **Topics**

This special issue concentrates on a special area of information systems – IS that have the expressed goal of improving human conditions, rather than the goal of making a profit for owners of business organisations. Funding for development and provision of such IS or ICT may be provided by governments, non-governmental organisations, not-for-profit organisations, or charitable organisations or individuals. Goals of IS and ICT for human benefit include, but are not limited to, the reduction of poverty, the improvement of health, education, social equity, or government services and participation, the emancipation of people, or the improvement of the quality of leisure and working life in general. Key to such a concept is that such IS or ICT is not designed for sale to individuals or organisations, but are conceptualised, developed, and diffused either directly by governments and other NGO funding agencies or by other commercial organisations with such organisations as the clients on behalf of the public. We expect papers of this special issue to explain clearly what difference these differences in goal(s) and funding incur

Second, design and development of a new Information Systems without thinking about the transfer, diffusion, and adoption of the new technology risks continuing irrelevance of the research. Both design practice and design science research are conducted within an organisational and societal environment, but the outcomes must be diffused and adopted into various different, perhaps vastly different, organisational and societal settings. Adoption and diffusion are particularly important to the success of design science in the context of Information Systems, due to the complex interactions of design artefacts with social and organizational contexts.

## **The main areas of expected contributions are:**

- projects developing and/or diffusing novel uses of IS and ICT for human benefit
- new models for funding or otherwise promoting IS and ICT for human benefit
- development practices for IS and ICT for human benefit
- managerial practices promoting IS and ICT for human benefit

The above list is not intended to be restrictive and researchers are encouraged to submit original manuscripts for the special issue that relate to one or more of the above issues.

The submitted papers must be less than 8000 words and all submissions should be in Word format and submitted via the webbased review management systems [www.itandpeople.org](http://www.itandpeople.org) . Manuscripts must follow the IT & People guidelines for submission.

Further details regarding the format of the submission can be found on the IT & People web page [www.itandpeople.org](http://www.itandpeople.org)

All reviews are double blind.

## **Important Dates**

1 October 2010	Submission Deadline
15 January 2011	Notification of Acceptance
1 March 2011	Final submission
June 2011	Special Issue is Published