



Editorial 13(2)

Welcome to JeDEM!

The papers in this issue focus on digital transformation in the public sector, highlighting the variety of themes associated with it, and the need for adopting a holistic approach. The issue contains the ongoing papers submitted to the journal during the second half of 2021, as well as papers edited by Gregor Eibl (Senior Researcher at Danube University Krems), Mila Gascó-Hernandez (Research Director at the University at Albany), Wei Jeng (Assistant Professor at National Taiwan University), and Anneke Zuiderwijk-van Eijk (Assistant Professor at TU Delft).

In *“Using open data for digital innovation: Barriers for use and recommendations for publishers”* Nativ, Jiang, and Stav focus on the use of open data for digital innovation. They investigate the barriers and success factors that need to be considered when using open data in such innovations, and how the public sector can increase the value of published data. They recommend that the innovation capacity of open data can be supported by providing the appropriate licenses, service levels, and convenient access mechanisms; but also by providing publishing channels and infrastructures and ensuring transparency, high-quality metadata, APIs, as well as harmonization, documentation and standardization. In *“Value generation from open government data in the public sector: Development and validation of a multidimensional scale”*, Oliveira, Pinheiro, and Pinto also consider the use of open government data and how public sector organizations can effectively generate value from it. They construct and test a scale based on a three-step process that can serve as an analysis tool to aid those public managers who are interested in utilizing open government data. In their paper, *“A roadmap to becoming a smart village: Experiences from living labs in rural Bavaria”*, Hanninger, Laxa, and Ahrens illustrate the measures and digital integrations made by drawing on pilots in rural communities in Bavaria, Germany. Their research provides an insight into best practices to promote digitalization in traditional rural areas by focussing on the transformation process rather than on digital solutions. These insights contribute to the overview of the requirements and steps that need to be taken in digital transformation.

Gamalielsson and the eight co-authors of *“Towards open government through open source software for web analytics: The case of Matomo”* show how open government can be achieved through open source software. They recommend that governmental agencies consider the reasons for implementing web analytics. As public sector organizations are not competitive, their goal should not be to maximize traffic to their web pages, but to collect data in order to optimize the experience for citizens and provide better services. It is important that public sector organizations carefully specify requirements for their solutions in order to ensure long-term, sustainable solutions that avoid lock-ins and privacy related issues.

In “*Mechanisms underpinning the usage of e-government services by businesses: A proposal based on previous empirical research*”, Correa-Ospina, Saxena, and Díaz Pinzón address the challenges governments face when they migrate users towards digital channels and electronic documents. They note that although these channels are seen as being more cost-efficient for all stakeholders, there is a need for a holistic understanding of businesses’ use of ICT when interacting with governments and thus supporting the migration of users to digital channels.

The last ongoing paper in this issue, De Rosa and Aragona’s paper “*Open Science and the Academic Profession*”, is of particular importance to an open access journal such as JeDEM. They discuss how open science is considered the new science paradigm that makes research accessible, accountable, and effective. Here, funding organizations play an important role in setting the new science environment and changing processes and science structures.

Two papers are edited by Gregor Eibl, Mila Gascó-Hernandez, Wei Jeng, and Anneke Zuiderwijk. In the article “*Towards value-creating and sustainable open data ecosystems: A comparative case study and a research agenda*” van Loenen and 12 co-authors conduct a comparative study among open data systems in European countries and pinpoint their challenges in moving toward more value-generating and sustainable open data ecosystems. They call attention to the insufficiencies in four characteristics of current open data systems: user involvement, inclusiveness, circularity, and appropriate skills. Their findings show that the state-of-art open data systems are still nascent from an ecosystem perspective. As a result, the study proposes a four-pathway research agenda in an attempt to improve each of the four aspects. Hence, by cooperating in the ecosystems, stakeholders are more likely to meet the data-focused priorities of critical cross-country initiatives (e.g., the European Commission’s data strategy). Most importantly, today’s open data systems can continue delivering sustainable values for society. The article by Khan and Johnson “*Co-producing spatial information: Exploring government approaches and motivations at the local level*” concentrates on governments’ approaches and motives through co-producing spatial information with citizens. By exploring such inquiries, this work aims to fill the research gaps regarding how co-production approaches influence political and social issues (e.g., democracy and citizen autonomy), and how communication between governments and citizens has evolved during the co-production process. Based on the interviews conducted with city governments’ employees, the authors identify four main co-production approaches for local governments: collection of new data, observation of changes, collection of opinions, and observation of preferences. Beyond the focus on government-citizen interaction, the authors emphasize the equally essential roles played in successful co-production processes by technologies, partner organizations, and strong data management, analysis, and use strategies.

Enjoy reading the papers!

Gregor Eibl, Wei Jeng, Mila Gascó-Hernandez (Guest Editors)

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