

Celebrations and Reflections in Pursuit of Impact

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1 Introduction

In our end-of-year editorial, we take the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the accomplishments of the AJIS community in 2025 and share our plans and aspirations for the journal's future. The lifeblood of a journal is the community it serves: the authors who submit their work, the reviewers and Senior Editors who shepherd and nurture the development of papers (and authors), and the institutions that anchor the scholarly ecosystem of the journal. We celebrate each of these in turn in this editorial as they enable AJIS to serve its ultimate stakeholder – the reader, both in the scholarly community and beyond.

2 The Published Articles

Since our last editorial in July, we have published Blocks 3 and 4 of AJIS.

With the publication of Blocks 3 and 4 of 2025, we are proud to see in action our expanding vision for a diverse portfolio of scholarly works that contribute to the understanding and sharing of knowledge of information systems. Block 3 contained six articles: the final three of our 'invited', peer-reviewed, provocations, our first 'Scholarship of IS Teaching and Learning' article, and two traditional research articles.

The first provocation of Block 3 was *From Automation to Autonomisation: How to Capitalise on Empowered Processes* (Bandara et al., 2025), written by Wasana Bandara, Michael Leyer and Michael Rosemann. This provocation extends current BPM paradigms by introducing the concept of "process autonomisation," a new paradigm that empowers organisations to make decisions autonomously using real-time data and adaptive business contexts. The authors then call on academic and industry stakeholders to collaborate to co-develop a roadmap that will help organisations align their process management with the ongoing digital transformation reshaping industries.

The second provocation of Block 3 is *With a Little Help from My Friends? The Growth Navigation Challenge of Start-up Ecosystems in Australasia* (Oshri & Kotlarsky, 2025) by Ilan Oshri and Julia Kotlarsky. Oshri and Kotlarsky explore the challenges associated with the start-up ecosystem in Australasia and examine how information technology service providers have emerged as central players in the start-up ecosystem. This frames a critical strategic decision: whether start-ups should embrace IT service provider partnerships or maintain independence.

The third and final provocation of Block 3 is *Accounting for Unintended Consequences in IS Research: A Call to Action* (Benbya et al., 2025) by Hind Benbya, Franz Strich and Van-Hau Trieu. Their paper highlights significant gaps in how unintended consequences are defined, theorised. They propose guiding questions that establish shared analytical vocabulary, enabling researchers to systematically identify, categorise and compare unintended consequences across contexts. This fosters theoretical precision, facilitates cross-contextual learning, and supports a more anticipatory and comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

Block 3 also saw our first article in the 'Scholarship of IS Teaching and Learning' domain. Andreas Drechsler and Cathal Doyle present *A Comprehensive Hybrid and Flexible ('HyFlex') Course Architecture for Conceptual Modelling Courses in Information Systems* (Drechsler & Doyle, 2025). Hybrid and flexible have become catchwords in modern, technology-enabled teaching. However, Drechsler & Doyle argue that a vanilla HyFlex approach struggles with teaching the complex skill of conceptual enterprise modelling. In response, they propose a set of design requirements, principles, and features for a comprehensive HyFlex course architecture and develop it through several iterations of evolution and evaluation.

Finally, Block 3 included two traditional research articles.

The first of these is *Theorising Robotic Process Automation as Socio-Technical Change: A Process Study* (Doolin et al., 2025). In this article Bill Doolin, Angsana A. Techatassanasoontorn, Lena Waizenegger and Erin Wallace-Carter identify five process patterns: initiation, mobilisation, configuration, adaptation, and evaluation, each of which has different implications for organisational trajectories of RPA implementation.

The second research article, *The Role of Roles: Are LLMs Behavioural in Information Systems Decision-Making?* (Guler et al., 2025), drawn from Nazmiye Guler recently awarded PhD work, and written with her supervisors Michael Cahalane, Samuel N. Kirshner, and Richard Vidgen. This paper examines how role assignment, a prompt engineering technique, influences ChatGPT's decision-making approach (behavioural versus rational). Given the increasing use of large language models (LLMs) in organisational workflows (as decision making tools and proxies for human behaviour as silicon samples), the authors find that subtle prompt variations significantly shape outcomes.

In this release (Block 4), we present our first submitted provocation and four research articles.

Our first submitted provocation, *Managing Email Boundaries in a Boundaryless World* (Chamakiotis et al., 2025), comes from the team of Petros Chamakiotis, Ward van Zoonen and Joyce Yi-Hui Lee. They challenge the dominant prescriptive advice that promotes temporal email boundaries, which may undermine the purpose of contemporary digital communications. They propose four areas for future research: extending beyond work email, generational differences in email use, the role of AI agents in email communications, and the paradoxical impacts of digital work on the future of work.

Our four research articles start with *Exploring the Dynamics of Less Frequent Social Media Usage* (Ta et al., 2025) by Anh Ta, Quynh N. Nguyen, Steve Schulz and Linh Le. The authors explore Less Frequent Use (LFU) and discontinuation of information systems products, focusing on social media applications. The authors extend the Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) framework to propose a novel LFU model centred on five determinants: perceived influencer disengagement, loss of interest, negative news exposure, addiction realization, and distrust.

Our second research article is *Closing the Gaps on Inscrutability: Tackling Challenges with Knowledge Integration during AI development* (Rinta-Kahila et al., 2025), written by Tapani Rinta-Kahila, Ida Asadi Someh, Ali Darvishi, Reihaneh Bidar, and Marta Indulska. Through three qualitative case studies of AI projects, the authors examine the challenge of AI inscrutability as organisations struggle to integrate complex domain knowledge into algorithmic models. They identify three sociotechnical mechanisms for bridging knowledge gaps and facilitating organisational learning in the face of this challenge.

The third research article is Shirley Gregor's *Being Creative with a Non-Human: The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence and Art* (Gregor, 2025). This paper explores the concept of human creativity and generative Artificial Intelligence within the context of producing images in visual art and design. Through an autoethnographic study of a seven-month project, a set of guiding principles (ORCA/E for AI-Art) are developed to assist creative endeavours in this context.

The fourth and final research article is Sunitha Prabhu's *Managing Risks and Perceptions in Everyday Organisational Cybersecurity* (Prabhu, 2025). In this paper, Prabhu argues that these distinct psychological mechanisms of perceived threat and neutralisation differentially influence active and passive cybersecurity risk behaviours.

3 Recognising our Reviewers

All too often, reviewing is sadly seen as a thankless task. Our Senior Editor Team raised reviewer recognition as one of their key priorities, and accordingly, we have initiated an annual *Australasian Journal of Information Systems Reviewer of the Year Award*. Consistent with the journal's community-building focus, this may be awarded in two categories: Developing Reviewer and Established Reviewer. Senior Editors nominate reviewers, and selection is made collectively by the Editors-in-Chief and the Senior Editors. The award is formally made at the Australasian Conference on Information Systems.

For the inaugural awards, we were pleased to announce that the 2025 winners of the AJIS Best Reviewer Awards are Dr Jia Xu of Deakin University and Dr Julian Prester of Sydney University. Congratulations to our award winners, both of whom are early-career researchers, a testament to a vibrant future for AJIS and the community.

We would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank the members of our community who undertook one or more reviews in support of our community journal - their names are listed in alphabetical order:

Abhinav Shirivastava
Adil Bilal
Alper Beser
Bingqing Xiong
Bloom John
Chih-Yuan Chou
Divya Gupta
Feliks P.S. Surbakti
Franz Strich
Gayani Patabandige

Ia Williamsson
Isabella Seeber
Jason Sargent
Jia Xu
Jingyu Zheng
Jorge Retamales
Joyce Yi-Hui Lee
Julian Marx
Julian Prester
Lesley Gardner

Lufan Zhang
Malshika Dias
Micheal Axelsen
Milind Tiwari
Mostafa Kamalpour
Pattie Beerens
Paul Kelly
Rod Dilnutt

Saima Qutab
Sandy Arief
Shanton Chang
Stan Karanasios
Vivian Ma
Wilson Li
Xavier Parent-Rocheleau
Yvonne Hong

We thank each of you, and we hope to have additional names for the coming year.

4 Developing the AJIS Community

Submitting and reviewing papers are not the only opportunities for developing the AJIS community. Throughout the year, the editorial team engaged in several initiatives and activities seeking to nurture the journal and the community it serves.

- **AJIS Paper Development Workshop (PDW) at ACIS:** Aimed at enabling authors to advance their papers to publication (in AJIS, or another IS Journal) with small group mentoring and feedback, the annual PDW ran again successfully in 2025. We also saw 2024 workshop papers appear in journals, a trend we trust will continue for this year's cohort and in the future. We look forward to the PDW at ACIS 2026 in Perth in December and encourage you to submit.
- **Community Engagement Workshops:** We have conducted 'ask the editors' workshops for a range of groups, most recently at the Pacific IS Workshop, the ACIS Doctoral Consortium, and at Edith Cowan University.
- **AAIS Reviewer Development Workshop(s):** We joined with AAIS (our publisher) in their new reviewer development workshops, where we shared review templates and discussed examples. Both the pilot by the Digital Health Research virtual community (thank you Lemai Nguyen) and the in-person workshop at ACIS 2025, received positive feedback from recipients. We look forward to engaging in future workshops as a key activity to grow our community
- **Reviewer Templates:** We preference a developmental mode of engagement over the harsh review culture that occasionally characterises our field (Kautz, 2024). To support this approach, we have updated our reviewer templates to assess submissions against publication thresholds and improvement pathways, rather than using Likert scales. We believe this change will help reviewers and senior editors provide more targeted, constructive feedback to authors.
- **Journal Infrastructure:** Behind the scenes we continue to upgrade our submission management system (to OJS 3.3, and soon OJS 3.5). With these changes we will be better able to track papers, enhance formal checks for plagiarism and Gen AI, and soon integrate ORCID into our tech stack.

5 Publishing in AJIS: Why and How?

Our mantra since taken the editorship is that we seek papers that are “interesting and sufficiently rigorous”. Pragmatically, this means we, and hence authors, need to ensure there is a high return on reader’s time investment in reading a paper. Part of the DNA of AJIS, is that it is a diamond open access journal: meaning no submission fees, no article processing fees, and fully open access for all to the published papers. This in itself has made AJIS an attractive outlet for prospective authors but has also led to a very high desk reject rate.

Our goal is not to reject papers, but to publish scholarly papers that have meaningful impact, both within and beyond the academic community. While we are driven by this goal rather than citations and other metrics, we recognise the importance of key performance metrics to various stakeholders. We are pleased to report strong performance that makes AJIS an attractive venue for publication:

- AJIS is well ranked: ABDC A, Scimago Q1, and a CiteScore of 5.4 (exceeding several other ABDC A information systems journals internationally)
- Typically, 20,000 abstract views per month for the last 12 months.
- *Time to first decision* is averaging 2 days for the trailing 12 months, relative to a target of 5 days. Driving this is both our EiC initial rapid review process, and the high desk reject rate. For papers that are not desk rejected as out of scope, this initial rapid review provides authors timely feedback on the potential of the paper and major issues needing to be addressed, with the ultimate intent that papers reach publication sooner.
- *Time to final decision* is 198 days for the trailing 12 months, although this has been artificially boosted by the tight timings of the five invited peer-reviewed provocations.
- An *acceptance rate* of 3%. This heavily impacted by out-of-scope desk rejects. Notably papers that make it through the EiC rapid review to a Senior Editor, typically have a 25-50% likelihood of acceptance.

How can authors improve the likelihood of acceptance of their papers? We provide the following advice:

- Have a well-motivated problem and research question, that genuinely has the potential for substantive theoretical and practical contribution.
- Write for an information system audience. This is typically evidence by citations to information systems literature.
- Workshop the paper to ensure you know how best to communicate your contributions to the community.
- Recognise that contribution and insight from data requires understanding the real-world phenomena as well as theory and methods.

On the other hand, desk rejects typically exhibit one of the following flaws:

- Failure to address an information systems question. Typically, these are papers better suited for computer science (e.g., computational or algorithm development without deep concern for the application context) or management (e.g., where the information system/technology is a black box).
- Descriptive literature reviews and generic adoption papers, despite our specific advice in previous editorial (Davern & Black 2025).

- Overemphasis on methodological mechanics. Methodological sophistication cannot substitute for poor problem motivation, weak theory development, or inadequate data quality.
- Generative AI as a primary author, rather than as a tool for research.

6 AJIS Endorsed to be an 'Official AIS Journal'

We have been continuing our efforts to increase AJIS's presence and visibility. We are pleased to announce that at the December 2025 Association of Information Systems Council meeting, our application for AJIS to be listed as an "Official AIS journal" was endorsed.

We will work through the operational details early in 2026, and we wish to give comfort that many of the things about AJIS will not change – the journal will remain diamond open access and will retain the goal of surfacing the developing talent of our region. Official AIS journal status will mean that past and future AJIS articles will soon be accessible through the AIS eLibrary, thereby raising the profile of our authors, the journal and the region.

7 How Can We Do Better?

As we've said before, AJIS is a community asset, and we are only the stewards thereof. If you have thoughts or suggestions on the above (or whatever else the journal might do to provide benefits to the AAIS community), please get in touch via ajis.eic@aisnet.org.

We look forward to reading your interesting and thought-provoking submissions and engaging with you through the editorial and other engagement processes to make AJIS a valued community asset.

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