

Information Technology and Public Administration Minitrack *IT-enabled Democracy (e-Democracy)*

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Information technology, in general, and the Internet, in particular, have changed citizens' expectations regarding the degree of involvement and the immediacy of participation in the public sector. Electronic voting, virtual town meetings, public monitoring of the performance of elected officials, and new approaches to authenticating personal identity are examples of opportunities for enhancement but also of potential threats to civil liberties. The six papers of this minitrack cover strategies and technologies for IT-enabled democracy and their policy implications.

The first paper *Electronic Voting: Algorithmic and Implementation Issues* by Robert Krimmer analyses implementation of electronic voting systems and develops an algorithm designed to guarantee anonymity of the voter and avoid the risk of manipulation of votes. The paper discusses the security criteria and options for secure storage.

In the second paper, *Democracy Functions of Information Technology*, Gunnar Liden explores the linkages between the "Swedish Democratic Model" and democratic functions of IT. He identifies seven functions of IT that may support democracy under the Swedish Model: support for communication; support for human networks, efficiency, political decisions, authority decisions, community service and public control.

Research in the third paper advances the discussion surrounding enhancement of information provision to

citizens. In *Expanding Citizen Access and Public Official Accountability through Knowledge Creation Technology: Recent Developments in e-Democracy*, Michael Shires presents a new knowledge creation application (Minutes-N-Motion) that significantly improves the utility of available public records and enhances the ability of citizens to use them.

The fourth paper, *The Web of Governance and Democratic Accountability*, focuses on the complex information networks that increasingly link citizens and government. In it, Stuart Thorson examines how this 'Web of Governance' is simultaneously producing changes in citizens' sense of identity and challenging conventional notions of accountability.

Internet Use, Transparency and Interactivity Effects on Trust in Government, the fifth paper by Eric Welch and Charles Hinnant, explores how two facets of e-Democracy – transparency and interactivity – may affect citizen trust in government.

In the sixth paper, *Using Mobile Technology to Support e-Democracy*, Heidi Bruecher and Petra Baumberger discusses how mobile technology can simplify access to and participation in political discussions and problems. The paper considers how mobile technology can address some of the shortcomings of the democratic process.