

◆ Introduction to the Electronic Government Track

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Matching the growth rate in previous years, the Electronic Government (e-Gov) researcher and practitioner community has grown again. As the reference library of peer-reviewed, English-language publications reveals, the volume of research has increased by at least 42 percent over the previous year (<http://tinyurl.com/2ks294>). New journals dedicated to this study domain have published their inaugural volumes (for example, Emerald's TGPPP, or Taylor & Francis's JITP), and existing journals have dedicated expanded space to e-Gov-related research (for example, Elsevier's GIQ, or IOS's Information Polity). More special interest groups have formed, topic-specific workshops and symposia abound, and even more regional conferences have emerged than in previous years.

Three annual conferences seem to have established themselves as those international events, which the global e-Government community preferably uses to convene: DGSNA's International Digital Government Conference (dgo) in May of each year, the DEXA/EGOV conference, in late August/early September, and last but not least, the e-Government Track at HICSS in January. Just like HICSS on a larger scale, so also the e-Government Track has gained the reputation among members of the community for serving as a bellwether for important new developments in this still young domain of study (for a short history of the HICSS e-Government Track, please refer to <http://tinyurl.com/y4z27x>).

This year and for the second time, the e-Government Track is accompanied by a full-day symposium on "*Global Electronic Government Research and Practice*." The symposium comprises three parts: First, it presents the groundbreaking papers in e-Government research published in 2005 and 2006. Second, it advances the discussion on the e-Government research agenda. Third, it hosts a discussion led by the leaders of several special research work groups.

With 40 percent accepted submissions from outside the US, the HICSS-based e-Government Track has maintained its truly global orientation and continues to provide the young study domain with tremendous tailwind. It helps structure and shape the research agenda in bringing together different research traditions. In fact, the e-Government research agenda is multi- and interdisciplinary in nature. It also has a strong connection to and exchange with e-Government practice, consequently, enjoying a high degree of relevance to practice. This gives the study domain a unique flavor and importance within the academic spectrum.

In 2008, the e-Government Track proudly hosts a total of 32 accepted papers in seven minitracks with one or two sessions each:

E-Gov Emerging Topics nurtures new topics such as mobile Government, research methods in e-Gov research, e-Gov foundations, and others.

E-Democracy presents research that investigates whether or not, and, in case they do, how information technologies contribute to democratic processes and outcomes.

E-Gov Architecture, Infrastructure, and Interoperability focuses on the technical, organizational, and social underpinnings of vertical and horizontal integration of business processes in government.

E-Gov Organization and Management covers characteristics, development, implementation, and uses of information systems that support the full range of management and administrative functions.

E-Gov Policy, Law, and Governance addresses how public policies and laws are related to the use and development of information and communication technologies (ICT) both in government and in society at large.

E-Gov Information Security presents research focusing on the critical role of security and assurance to government operations and citizens' trust.

E-Gov Services and Information showcases research dedicated to the rapidly developing field of electronic service in the public sector.