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Special issue: Systematic review and meta-analysis in information management research

We are pleased to publish this second, and final, volume of our special issue on systematic literature review and meta-analytic methods in the field of data and information management. We include five papers from authors representing diverse geographic regions, namely China, South Korea, South Africa, Singapore, and Iran. The papers selected for inclusion in the second volume apply meta-analysis, topic modelling, and systematic review techniques. They illustrate the benefits of these methods to objectively summarise large bodies of literature, resolve inconsistencies in past research, identify gaps in literature and generate ideas for future research.

All papers in the special issue were subjected to double-blind peer review by at least two expert reviewers with multiple rounds of review and revision, and the guest editors were assigned papers to ensure no conflicts of interest.

The first paper by Qiu and Zhang from Wuhan University, China, addresses the topic of electronic word-of-mouth (eWOM) in the form of online reviews. They present a meta-analysis of 156 studies addressing the relationship between online reviews and consumer purchase intentions. They demonstrate the use of meta-analytic techniques to reconcile inconsistencies in past studies by examining the predominant antecedents of purchase intention in the online reviews context, and the role of various moderators. They use the random-effect model to estimate pairwise correlations along with a meta-regression technique. By revealing both review-related and source-related antecedents and the moderating roles of culture and product type, they offer important practical and research implications.

The second paper by Batool and Mou from Pusan National University, South Korea is a systematic literature review and analysis of virtual try-on technology (TOT). The paper offers a useful overview of TOT technologies and applications. This is followed by a systematic review of 80 articles that uncovers the range of theories employed in past TOT research, along with the antecedent and outcome variables examined. Various gaps are uncovered to promote future research.

The third paper by Jada and Mayayise from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, presents results of a systematic literature review on the role of artificial intelligence in cyber security. The PRISMA method was used to guide their systematic review stages. Their systematic search of the scholarly literature resulted in a sample of 73 articles focused on AI and cyber security in the organisational and enterprise context. In addition to revealing prevalent themes on how the use of AI differs from traditional non-AI means of cyber protection, their review also uncovers both the positive and negative impacts of AI use in cyber security. The paper is an important read for scholars and practitioners of cyber security.

The fourth paper is by Gupta, Ding, Guan and Ding from Singapore University of Social Science and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Their paper illustrates the usefulness of systematic search and topic modelling to provide an overview of the scholarly literature on an emerging technology, namely generative AI's (GAI). They applied the BERTopic topic modelling algorithm to 1319 records in Scopus and derived 23 topics from which they deduced seven clusters of topics. These topics address innovative GAI applications, GAI infrastructure and techniques, and GAI governance. Opportunities for future research in the evolving GAI field are offered. The paper is important for scholars interested in learning about the advancement of generative AI and the current state of literature on the topic.

The final paper in this special issue is by Talafidaryani and Asarian from University of Tehran, Iran. They provide another example of a smart, automated literature review. Specifically, they use the LDA topic modelling text analysis approach to reveal the dominant themes in research on digital transformation. Texts were sourced from Scopus and Web of Science along with JCR journals. The themes identified include a core knowledge group and a group of developing trends in digital transformation research. They provide useful input to future research by uncovering some of the fastest growing topics in digital transformation.

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