



The first article in this issue, by M.J. Scheepers, and with some very important research results, is entitled *Entrepreneurial mindset of information and communication technology firms*. The author argues that currently 'limited research focuses on the entrepreneurial mindset of ICT-related firms, despite the opportunities in and importance of this sector for economic growth'. The purpose of this article is therefore to describe the entrepreneurial mindset of ICT firms operating in South Africa and within the so-called e-business space. The e-business space in this article refers to e-business products, services, processes and strategies that firms pursue. The following are covered:

- Identification of the indicators and underlying dimensions of an entrepreneurial mindset.
- Description of the entrepreneurial mindset of South African ICT firms.
- Discussion of the findings and recommendations for managers and practitioners.

Data were obtained using structured telephone interviews with 144 ICT firms. The findings indicate that the three indicators of an entrepreneurial mindset are associated and can be linked to performance. It is recommended that managers create a supportive climate for entrepreneurship by offering rewards, empowering employees and providing leadership and support for initiatives.

*Hierarchical analysis of acceptable use policies*, written by P.A. Laughton, identifies and describes a fairly new concept within the Information Management domain, namely *acceptable use policies* (AUPs). According to him these are vital tools for enterprises to protect themselves and their employees from misuse of computer facilities provided. A well-structured, thorough AUP is essential for any organization, the author argues. Furthermore, AUPs are often not seen as proactive tools in the prevention of misuse of computer facilities. AUPs work in conjunction with active tools such as content filters in ensuring the correct and optimum use of computer facilities. Today, AUPs have an increasingly important role to play in the enterprise to block unwanted online content. Although AUPs can be seen as a passive form of control, they do not physically restrict an enduser from inappropriate online behaviour; they rather act guidelines to appropriate use of computers made available to employees.

The third contribution, by M.A. Mearns, seeks to cast more light on the question: *What are the current trends in the theoretical and research methodological approaches as applied in research in the field of information and knowledge management in South Africa?*. An investigation was conducted of the theories and research methodologies by doctoral dissertations completed in South Africa over the past ten years. Searching for relevant dissertations in this domain, descriptors and search strings (search terms or keywords, for that matter) such as 'information management', 'knowledge management' or 'information and knowledge management' were submitted to a number of online databases and/or search engines. Related terms, such as data mining, search engine optimizing or even 'business information systems' were not mentioned as viable, albeit wider terms that could effectively be incorporated in this research.

Of the 47 South African 'relevant' dissertations, 30 from a possible 47 titles were included in the purposive sample analysed. This sample size constitutes a 63.8% representation of the population. The results of the investigation identified 'some' trends in the field of information

and knowledge management research in South Africa. These are described under to the following headings:

- Research design
- Research design type
- Theoretical positions/paradigms
- Sampling types
- Data collection and analysis.

Pieter van Brakel  
Editor

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