

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

MIS Quarterly Research Curations: Bundling for Impact

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The *MISQ* Trifecta Vision focuses on (1) impact of published work; (2) range of published work (with respect to problems investigated, theories and methods employed, and stakeholders influenced); and (3) speed of editorial processes. The *MISQ* Research Curations initiative was launched in January 2016 as an initiative to enhance impact of work published in *MISQ* by serving as a go-to source on topics of significant interest to the IS field and other disciplines.

A curation identifies *MISQ* articles that make significant contributions to the topic of the curation and provides researchers with easy access to a bundle of *MISQ* articles on which to further build or extend research. The curation includes a short thematic summary of the topic and the bundle of *MISQ* articles related to the topic. The curations are accessible from the *MISQ* web site (<https://misq.org/research-curations/>) and serve as living documents that are updated as new articles related to the topics are published.

In this editorial, we describe the motivation behind the curation initiative, the process of developing a curation, and the curations that have been developed.

Features and Value Proposition

Research curations provide a quick summary of *MISQ* articles on a topic. They have five features:

1. *They are living documents:* The curations are updated as new research is published in *MISQ* related to the topic of the curation.
2. *They are connected:* Each curation provides a link to each published *MISQ* article, reducing search costs.
3. *They are thematic:* Each curation defines the key themes that have emerged from the research in an area.
4. *They are bundled:* Each curation provides a bundle of all *MISQ* articles that have substantively engaged with the topic.
5. *They are brief:* The curations provide a synopsis of the literature in three to four pages. They do not provide a comprehensive synthesis of research nor do they build new theory or chart directions for future research. In contrast to the curations, *MISQ* papers in the Theory and Review category synthesize the literature and generate new theory.¹

¹See <https://misq.org/categories> for additional information on the Theory and Review category of *MISQ* articles.

The features of the curation correspond to the three aspects of the *MISQ* Trifecta Vision:

- *Impact*: While the article is often considered to be the unit of scholarly influence, a brief representation of the body of work published in *MISQ* on a topic can have a collective influence. By reading a few pages, scholars can get a quick sense of the corpus of work on the topic that has appeared in *MISQ* and the underlying themes. By serving as a living document, scholars can become aware of new work in relation to the scholarly conversation on the topic.
- *Range*: Individually, the curations showcase the different perspectives, theories, and methods that have been used to investigate research questions on a topic. They also represent the progression in *what* aspects of a problem have been investigated and *how* the investigations have been conducted. Collectively, the curations provide a broad overview, illustrating the diversity of problems of enduring interest published in *MISQ*.
- *Speed*: As bundles of relevant research, the curations reduce the search costs for those interested in the topic, for example, those wanting to keep up with the scholarly conversation, those wanting to quickly become familiar with a topic, and editors and reviewers evaluating work on a topic.

Scope and Structure

Each curation provides a brief overview of a bundle of *MISQ* articles published on a topic.

Selection of *MISQ* Articles

The curation team selects the set of *MISQ* articles for inclusion in a research curation. This set of articles may have been published over a long or short span. An article may contribute in different ways (e.g., theoretical, empirical, methodological) but the guiding criteria for inclusion is whether the article makes a significant contribution in the topic area.

Progression of Research in *MISQ*

Each curation discusses how research in an IS phenomenon emerged and developed over time. This progression highlights how research in an area has ebbed and flowed.

Thematic Advances in Knowledge

The curations identify the core themes that have emerged from a body of work. Identifying these themes highlights the primary contributions that have emerged over time.

Downloadable References

As part of a living and dynamic document, each curation links to the articles that define the curation. The curations provide direct access to all abstracts. They also link to the full article if the article was published more than five years ago (when *MISQ* articles are no longer embargoed).

Infographic

Each curation provides an infographic that summarizes the themes and their progression. The infographic is designed to make salient the key ideas in the body of work.

Process

The Research Curations Editor and the EIC invite a team of researchers, who collectively represent different perspectives related to a topic, to develop a curation. The curation undergoes an iterative development process before it is released.

1. Curation topics are either identified by the EIC and Curations Editor or proposed by researchers working in the area. Topics are selected and refined based on the quantity of articles published in *MISQ*. The goal is to identify a topic that has broad appeal and a sufficient number of articles to present a parsimonious discussion.
2. Once a topic has been identified, the curation team is formed in collaboration with the EIC and Curations Editor. The team brings together diverse perspectives relevant to the topic.
3. After the team is invited to develop the curation, the team reviews all articles published in *MISQ* related to the topic. They succinctly describe the themes and their progression and develop a corresponding infographic.
4. The curations are editorially reviewed by the EIC and the Curations Editor. The curation team revises the curation based on the feedback. Once a curation is accepted, it is published on the *MISQ* website.
5. The team updates the curation about once a year to include any new *MISQ* articles.

Progress with the Initiative

We have released seven curations to date.²

- *Securing Digital Assets*: This was the first curation released in May 2016 and updated in July 2018. It was developed by Kai-Lung Hui (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Anthony Vance (Temple University), and Dmitry Zhdanov (Georgia State University). The curation surfaces the following themes that are covered by the *MISQ* articles on the topic: (1) how to encourage behavioral compliance; (2) frameworks and tools to manage risk; (3) understanding the importance of investing in securing digital assets; and (4) implications in the marketplace.
- *Trust*: The second curation was released in October 2016 and updated in June 2018. It was developed by Matthias Söllner (Universities of St. Gallen and Kassel), Izak Benbasat (University of British Columbia), David Gefen (Drexel University), Jan Marco Leimeister (Universities of St. Gallen and Kassel), and Paul A. Pavlou (Temple University). The curation summarizes the insights from the *MISQ* articles with respect to the following types of trust-based relationships: (1) between people or between groups; (2) between people and organizations; (3) between organizations; and (4) between people and technology.
- *Information Privacy*: Our third curation was released in December 2017 and updated in June 2018. This curation was developed by Aleš Popovič (University of Ljubljana), H. Jeff Smith (Miami University), James Y. L. Thong (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), and Sunil Wattal (Temple University). The curation focuses on the *MISQ* articles that treated information privacy as a core construct and summarizes the work along the following themes: (1) conceptual papers and literature reviews; (2) antecedents of information privacy; (3) consequences of information privacy; and (4) privacy protection.
- *IS Use*: The fourth curation was released in December 2017 and was developed by Andrew Burton-Jones (The University of Queensland), Mari-Klara Stein (Copenhagen Business School), and Abhay Mishra (Georgia State University). The curation summarizes the work published in *MISQ* on the topic along the following themes: (1) IT acceptance; (2) dynamics of IS use; (3) methodological approaches to better understand IS Use; and (4) extending the nomological network of constructs associated with IS use.
- *Knowledge Management*: The fifth curation was released in April 2018. It was developed by Peng Huang (University of Maryland), Atreyi Kankanhalli (National University of Singapore), Harris Kyriakou (IESE Business School), and Rajiv Sabherwal (University of Arkansas). The curation organizes the insights from the *MISQ* articles along the following themes: (1) knowledge management strategies; (2) knowledge management processes; (3) the design of knowledge management systems; and (4) use of knowledge management systems

²The curations can be accessed at <https://misq.org/research-curations/>.

at the individual and team levels.

- *Health Information Technology*: The sixth curation was released in June 2018 and was developed by Aaron Baird (Georgia State University), Corey Angst (University of Notre Dame), and Eivor Oborn (The University of Warwick). This curation focuses on the intersection of health IT with societies, organizations, and consumers. It organizes the insights from the *MISQ* articles on the topic along the following themes: (1) health IT as a strategic asset; (2) health IT adoption and use; (3) health IT security and privacy; (4) health IT for development; and (5) health as a context.
- *IS Sourcing*: Our seventh curation was released in July 2018. It was developed by Jens Dibbern (University of Bern), Julia Kotlarsky (University of Auckland), Deepa Mani (Indian School of Business), and Ilan Oshri (University of Auckland). The curation summarizes the work published in *MISQ* on the topic along the following themes: (1) making the sourcing decision from either the client or supplier perspective; (2) how to design contract structures; and (3) how to manage the sourcing relationship.

Concluding Remarks

We hope that the curations will be a useful resource for doctoral seminars, researchers interested in the domain, and editors and reviewers. It is an approach for *MISQ* to share not only individual articles on a topic but the bundle of articles on the topic with the community, thereby broadening the scope of influence from an article to the body of work published in the journal. We welcome the community to participate in the development of future curations.