International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation
Volume 8 • Issue 1 • January-March 2016

Seven Years of IJANTTI Articles

Arthur Tatnall, IJANTTI Editor-in-Chief: 2009 – 2015, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

ABSTRACT

The International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation (IJANTTI) is now in its eighth year, and this article provides a brief summary of the journal's content over its first seven years. It offers an historical view of how the articles have changed (or not changed) over this period as an indication of the range of some of the topics that have been subject to an ANT analysis. A brief summary of the types of issues covered is also provided.

KEYWORDS

Actor-Network Theory, History, Journal Articles, Technological Innovation, Topics

INTRODUCTION

It is now over thirty years since Latour, Callon and Law (Callon 1986, Callon 1986, Latour 1986, Law 1986, Law 1986, Latour 1987, Law 1987, Latour 1988, Latour 1988) put together their ideas and concepts in the first papers on Actor-Network Theory (ANT). For some time however, ANT was regarded by many, including those in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), as little more than a curiosity. In recent years, however, the ICT research community has begun to discover the power of using ANT as an explanatory framework for much of its research. Design, implementation and use of information and communication technologies inevitably involve the interactions of both technology and people. Information Systems are, of necessity, socio-technical in nature and require a socio-technical approach to their investigation. Healthcare is another area in which the interactions of human and non-human actors (such as hospital equipment, X-ray machines and information systems is important. Educational research also makes good use of ANT. These are a few of many areas area in which ANT is particularly useful as most other research approaches consider people and technology entirely separately, whilst it is a core tenet of actor-network theory to give the same impartial treatment to considerations of both human and non-human actors. Models of technological innovation, including Innovation Translation, Innovation Diffusion and the Technology Acceptance Model also feature prominently in IJANTTI articles.

This article briefly describes, and examines the 117 articles published in the International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation (IJANTTI) over the seven year period from 2009-2015 and briefly categorises the types of issues covered.

DOI: 10.4018/IJANTTI.2016010101

2009: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

(International Journal of Actor-Network Theory and Technological Innovation 2009).

Have you Taken your Guys on the Journey? – An ANT Account of IS Project Evaluation

In the first article Dubravka Cecez-Kecmanovic and Fouad Nagm from the University of New South Wales in Australia proposed a radical departure from the dominant conceptions in Information Systems (IS) evaluation literature by adopting Actor-Network Theory to provide a better understanding of the pre-investment evaluation of information system project proposals in practice and examine the ways in which the evaluation process shaped and ensured the selection of the best IS projects.

Actor-Network Theory for Service Innovation

Lorna Uden and Janet Francis from Staffordshire University in the UK noted that the service sector had overtaken agriculture and manufacturing as the dominant economy in the industrial world and that services have become the key value driver for companies. In the article they used Actor-network Theory as a theoretical lens to study the development and adoption of service innovation.

The S'ANT Imperative for Realising the Vision of Healthcare Network Centric Operations

Nilmini Wickramasinghe from Illinois Institute of Technology and Rajeev Bali from Coventry University combined Social Network Analysis with Actor-network Theory to investigate the information-intensive environment of healthcare, and proffered a network-centric approach as one that allows free and rapid sharing of information and the effective knowledge building.

Information Systems, Technology Adoption and Innovation Translation

Arthur Tatnall from Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia argued that before a new Information System can be used it must first be adapted and adopted and so new Information Systems should be seen as innovations and viewed through the lens of innovations theory. The article proposed that Innovation Translation could offer a useful way of examining technological innovations.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2: SPECIAL ISSUE ON 'MODELS OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION'

Opening the Indonesian Bio-Fuel Box: How Scientists Modulate the Social

Yuti Ariani and Sonny Yuliar from the Institute of Technology, Bandung in Indonesia employed the notion of translation to study current bio-fuel developments in Indonesia. The paper sought an understanding of the bio-fuel development trajectory by investigating a variety of elements that shaped this trajectory. The article showed that the translations follow specific patterns of qualculation, namely 'proliferation' and 'rarefaction'.

Using Data Visualisation to Represent Stages of the Innovation-Decision Process

Scott Bingley and Stephen Burgess from Victoria University in Australia discussed the Innovation-Decision process as an important component of Rogers' Innovation Diffusion approach to modelling innovation. Their article described the development of a visual aid (I-D Maps) to depict the manner in which Internet applications are diffused through local sporting associations.