Introduction to the special issue of ECR on E-business innovation with big data

Shaokun Fan¹ · Jinghua Xiao² · Kang Xie² · J. Leon Zhao³

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The past half century has witnessed an unrelenting exponential growth in digital information—generated from the activities of individuals, businesses, mobile phones, social networks and the rapidly emerging Internet-of-Things. We live in an era of “Big Data” that has created both immense opportunities and daunting challenges for innovation on electronic business platforms. Big data initiatives are growing in industry and the academy, with the exploration of new designs, fast and cost-effective systems development, and fascinating new business models. The field has given new life to statistical and artificial intelligence analytics, putting these on the center stage in an explosion of value-creation in the twenty-first century.

The eight papers in our special issue of Electronic Commerce Research offer fascinating insights into a wide range of topics, including personalized product recommendation, spam detection in social media, sentiment community detection in social networks, and integration of big data analysis into conceptual modeling. We hope that readers of ECR will enjoy these articles and find this special issue valuable. We would like to thank Chris Westland, Editor-in-Chief of ECR for his guidance in the process of creating this issue and all the authors and reviewers for their valuable contributions that made this special issue possible.

✉ Shaokun Fan
Shaokunfan@oregonstate.edu

¹ Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA

² Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

³ City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China