



Association for  
Information Systems

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

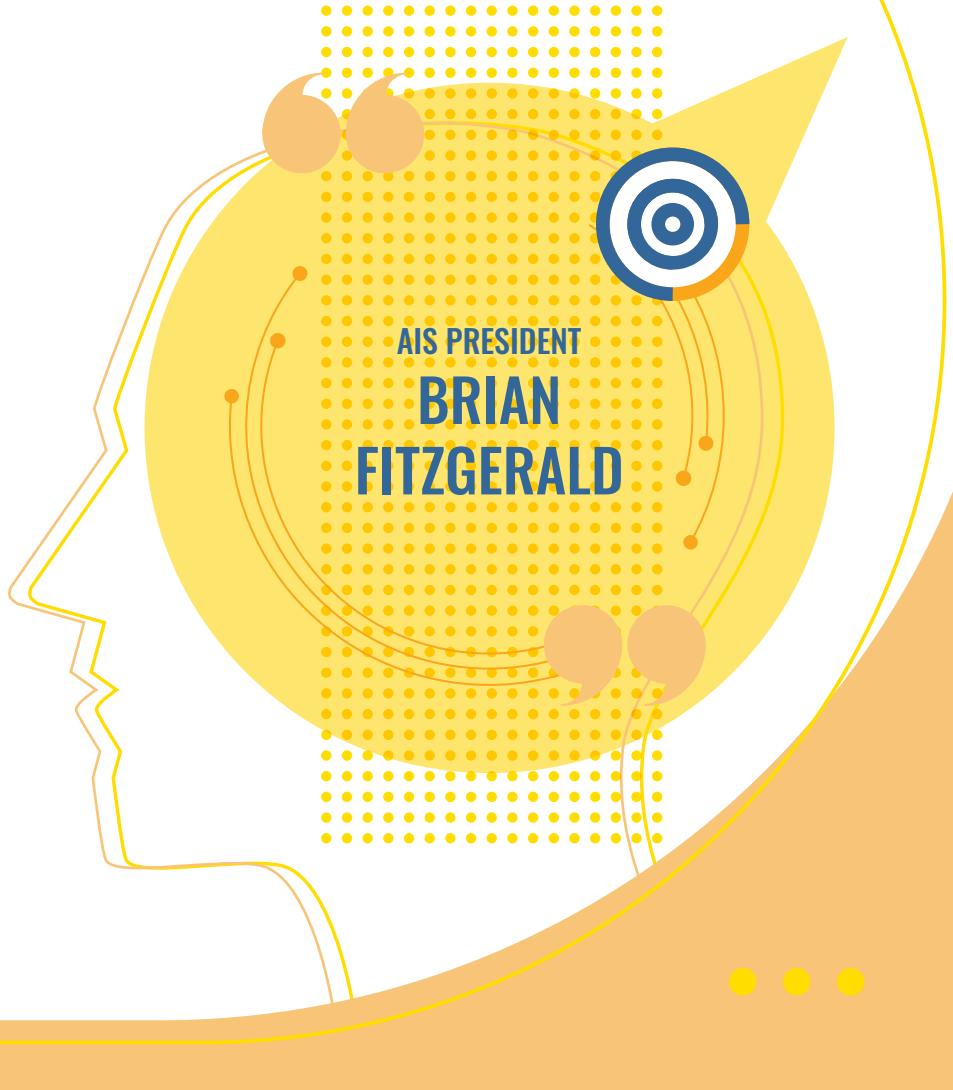


# From Challenge to Transformation

In a year like no other, the Association for Information Systems (AIS) has taken many of the global challenges put before us and used them as an opportunity to transform our organization into the premier membership group for the field of information systems.

At the beginning of 2020, AIS was beginning its 26th year as a professional organization and was ready to institute new and exciting programs and services through the 25 for 25 campaign. Mid-March of 2020, the global pandemic created such a disruption to the field in both research and teaching, that AIS leaders knew they would need to be at the forefront of responding in order to rapidly mobilize and serve our members during their greatest time of need.

Our members, volunteers, council representatives and staff took on a collaborative mindset and went above and beyond to serve the field of information systems. Their collective efforts created a year of programs and services like no other for the association, but more importantly, they created opportunities for our entire field to remain connected during its most challenging times.



# Transforming Connections

I really liked how the virtual format went. I have not attended ICIS since 2012 because of the costs and timing of travel. This worked out very well and was a great experience. I also found a lot of value in having the links to recorded presentations. There are presentations from other sessions that I intend to view at a later time. This would not have been an option with a different format.

- ICIS 2020 Attendee

When the world shut down, AIS got to work. Faced with the challenge of major IS conferences being canceled, AIS worked with the leaders of ECIS, PACIS, and AMCIS to create a unique new program, the AIS Virtual Conference Series. This merging of conferences allowed all three events to continue in a virtual format. Additionally, conference leaders were able to offer the series at a deeply discounted price in order to be inclusive of those impacted financially by the global pandemic.

For the first time in its history, ICIS also went virtual, allowing scholars to focus on presenting relevant research while staying safe.

It's kind of fun to do the impossible.  
- Walt Disney

**ECIS 2020**  
June 15-17  
1,389 Attendees

911 Total Submissions  
642 Research Papers  
270 Research in Progress Papers  
4 Panels/Workshops

**PACIS 2020**  
June 20-24  
1,238 Attendees

Voluntary submission participation.

**AMCIS 2020**  
June 15-17  
1,788 Attendees

748 Total Submissions  
449 Research Papers  
181 ERFs  
5 Panels  
93 TREOs

**ICIS 2020**  
June 15-17  
1,506 Attendees

1,142 Total Submissions  
637 Research Papers  
470 Research in Progress Papers

# Transforming Community

## Southern AIS:

"In order to stay engaged with our members, we created a research workshop in collaboration with the Journal of Southern AIS Special Issue "IS in the Time of COVID-19". The Special Issue allows us to have participants discuss research topics related to IS and the impact that COVID-19 has had on IS related issues, ranging from skills and technologies for the future ways of working, inclusion and accessibility issues, software adoption, and security and privacy issues."

## Latin America and Caribbean AIS:

"We have been able to do more than we are usually able to, because we joined forces to ensure that things would continue to happen. ISLA and the Research Seminars Series are an evidence that sometimes we need difficult times to challenge us to go beyond."

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

In 2020 the AIS community became more important than ever. Without face-to-face conferences, AIS SIGs, Chapters and Colleges transformed the way they connected members to each other and served society. Additionally AIS Communities focused on creating diverse and inclusive opportunities for all.

AIS offers 38 Special Interest Groups, 42 Chapters and 4 Colleges with the addition of the new SIG, the Changing Nature of Work, and the new Chapter, Eastern Africa Chapter.

## Portuguese AIS:

"To specifically address the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we launched an SAP Next-Gen Lab to take advantage of SAP intelligent technologies. We have been interacting now with Portuguese and Brazilian higher education institutions to develop a teaching and research community and use SAP technology to tackle major societal issues."

## AIS Senior Scholars:

"We formed two task forces to investigate a) diversity and inclusion in the AIS more generally, b) diversity and inclusion in the editorial boards of the AIS basket journals. The latter was published in the CSS website and a journal version is forthcoming in CAIS."

# Transforming Accessibility

## Multiyear Memberships

As the global pandemic continued to have a negative impact on universities budgets, AIS responded with increased multiyear membership discounts to keep members connected to the association. Currently, more than 1,500 AIS members hold multiyear memberships.

Membership levels remained remarkably strong during 2020, as people continued to find more and more value in AIS member services including many new virtual services. At the end of the year, AIS had more than 4,500 members, of which 2,885 were academics, 1,565 were doctoral students, 56 were professional members, and 66 were retired members. AIS also continued to offer the Institutional Membership program to support 33 universities.



In 2020, AIS provided more than 50 members with full access to membership through the Ephraim McLean Scholarship program. 26 doctoral students and 26 academics received full membership scholarships to the association for one year. This program provides membership to potential members who qualify from countries identified by the United Nations as Low or Medium on the Human Development Index scale.



# Transforming Service

In 2020, the association reached out to members to determine immediate needs that might have come up due to the pandemic. Front and center were the need to adapt quickly to online teaching and the need to create connections with other researchers. Harnessing the expertise of our volunteers from across the globe, AIS addressed these needs by creating various programs including:

- COVID-19 Learning Action Awards – The AIS Covid-19 Learning Action Awards reviewed postings on the newly-created AIS Covid-19 Forum that specifically addressed educational challenges. Awards were presented for ideas that addressed new classes developed around the role of IS in the pandemic, syllabus changes to include Covid-19 relevant material, changes in syllabus to support teaching in an online or hybrid model, and more.
- AIS Research Exchange - The AIS Research Exchange is a series of research sessions for the Information Systems community to gather virtually, hear a presentation from the field's top researchers, and break off into individual networking opportunities.
- AIS eLibrary Upgrades – Throughout 2020 many upgrades were made to the AIS eLibrary to better facilitate discussions and research presentation opportunities. ECIS, PACIS, AMCIS and ICIS authors presented their research in video form to coincide with all papers now available in the eLibrary. Additionally, discussion threading is now included on 2020 conference articles and many 2020 journal articles. Also in 2020, conference papers nominated or named best paper received unique badging to highlight their notoriety.



Thank you for the rare opportunity to converse with the editor of a leading journal. All of these Research Exchanges have been excellent, as I have watched the recordings of all of the ones prior. (This is the first I was able to attend live.) Just excellent.

- Research Exchange Attendee

# Transforming Research

In 2020 the Association for Information Systems was pleased to announce AIS Transactions on Replication Research and AIS Transactions on Human-Computer Interaction were made available as gold open access journals. Vice President of Publications, Rajiv Kohli, along with Editors-in-Chief Fiona Nah (THCI), and Susan Brown and Alan Dennis (TRR) launched the Gold Open Access program on a pilot basis.

Gold Open Access allows everyone full access to publications in these journals as soon as they are published (even AIS non members). This decision supports and reinforces AIS' longstanding Green Open Access policy across AIS Journals.

Additionally in 2020, InPractice, the monthly newsletter showcasing articles published in AIS Journals, merged with Science2Practice, a nonprofit organization with the goal of spreading the latest research findings to practitioners.

This partnership provides more services for AIS members and increase the circulation of published articles in AIS Journals.

In 2020, the AIS eLibrary posted 7,124 new works and more than 1.5 million articles were downloaded.

## eLibrary Office Hours

AIS recently created eLibrary office hours to provide opportunities to answer any questions members might have about using the AIS eLibrary.

# Celebrating Success

## 2020 AIS Award Winners

The **AIS Leadership Excellence Award** is given annually to a single person for leadership and innovation in the use and development of information systems. Narayana Murthy Founder, Infosys Limited, is the recipient of the 2020 AIS Leadership Excellence Award.

The **AIS LEO Award** for Lifetime Exceptional Achievement in information systems, named after one of the world's first commercial applications of computing (The Lyons Electronic Office), recognizes truly outstanding individuals in the information systems community, both academics and practitioners, who have made exceptional contributions to research in and/or the practice of information systems. 2020 LEO Award winners include Dr. Cynthia Beath, Dr. Varun Grover, Dr. Elena Karahanna and Dr. Jae Kyu Lee.

The **AIS Fellow Award** recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the information systems discipline in terms of research, teaching, and service. 2020 AIS Fellows include Pär Ågerfalk, Brent Gallupe, Wei (Wayne) Huang, Mary Lacity, Annette Mills, Fred Niederman, Gabe Piccoli, and Matti Rossi.

The **AIS Doctoral Student Service Award** recognizes volunteer contributions made by doctoral students toward the success of AIS conferences, journals and programs. 2020 AIS Doctoral Student Service Award winners are Tawfiq Alashoor, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals; Akshat Lakhial, Indiana University - Bloomington; Carol Lee, University of Massachusetts Boston; Yijing Li, University of New South Wales Business School; Pitsos Tsibolane, University of Cape Town; Wei Zhang, Georgia State University.

The **Sandra Slaughter Service Award** recognizes longstanding members who have provided leadership within the Association, particularly through such activities as participating in the SIGs/chapters/colleges, strengthening the conferences, and participating in AIS-sponsored journals. The 2020 Sandra Slaughter Service Award winners are Jan DeGross, University of Minnesota; Antoine Harfouche, USJ; Eleanor Loiacono, The College of William & Mary; Dawn Owens, University of Texas - Dallas; Jason Thatcher, Temple University; Eric van Heck, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University; Ryan Wright, University of Virginia.

The **AIS Early Career Award** recognizes individuals in the early stages of their careers who have already made outstanding research, teaching, and/or service contributions to the field of information s. 2020 AIS Early Career Award winners are Zachary Steelman, University of Arkansas; Vilma Todri, Emory University; Nina Huang, University of Houston; Matthias Soellner, University of Kassel; Markus Salo, University of Jyväskylä; John Dong, University of Groningen; Marten Risius, University of Queensland.

AIS introduced a new award in 2020, the **AIS Impact Award**, to recognize the impact of information systems research beyond academia. Impactful research can be a powerful individual motivator. Seeing that one's own research delivers societal value and helps business succeed is rewarding in its own right. Winners include:

- Alok Gupta, Wolfgang Ketter, Yixin Lu, Huong May Truong, and Eric van Heck for their work on "Artificial Intelligence in the Floriculture Chain".

# Celebrating Success

- Shan Pan, Haibo Hu, Lili Cui, Tingting Huang, and Delin Zeng for their work on “Digital Enablement Project (DEP) for Sustainable Educational Development: A Digital Literacy Program for Children in Remote Villages of China”.
- Hsinchun Chen for work on “COPLINK - Managing Law Enforcement Data and Knowledge”.

The **AIS Vision Award** is given to those who have contributed to the technology vision for the association. The VISION award is given to those who have articulated a strategic thrust for the association. The 2020 AIS Vision Award winners are:

- Alan Dennis, AIS Past-President
- ECIS 2020 Conference Co-Chairs: Frantz Rowe, Redouane El Amrani, and Moez Limayem
- AMCIS 2020 Conference Co-Chairs: Bonnie Anderson, and Jason Thatcher
- PACIS 2020 Conference Co-Chairs: Doug Vogel, Kathy Ning Shen, and Pan Shan Ling

The **AIS Technology Challenge Award** is given to those who make significant contributions to the development of AIS resources. This year, AIS Challenge award winners worked to develop and deliver fully virtual conferences using new and existing platforms to be successful. The 2020 AIS Technology Challenge Award winners are:

- ECIS 2020 Program Co-Chairs: Sue Newell, Nancy Pouloudi, and Eric van Heck
- AMCIS Program Co-Chairs: Kathy Chudoba, Kelly Fadel, and Sue Brown
- PACIS 2020 Program Co-Chairs: Carol Hsu, James Y.L. Thong, Sean Xin Xu, Marco De Marco, and Moez Limayem

Each year, AIS recognizes those who have made important and innovative strides in information systems education by awarding three different awards to deserving candidates at the International Conference of Information Systems. The winner of the **AIS Award for Outstanding Contribution to IS Education** for 2020 was Jan Marco Leimeister, University of St. Gallen & University of Kassel.

The **AIS Award for Innovation in Teaching** recognizes innovation in teaching approaches/techniques (pedagogy) as well as in delivering courses and programs. This award specifically focuses on the uniqueness/innovativeness that increases student interest and drives achievement. The 2020 Innovation in Teaching award goes to Gabriele Piccoli, Louisiana State University and University of Pavia; Joaquin Rodriguez, Louisiana State University; Biagio Palese, Northern Illinois University; Marcin Bartosiak, University of Pavia.

The **AIS Award for Best Conference Paper in IS Education** recognizes the importance of pedagogy research in the Information Systems field. Papers that focus on IS education-related topics at any AIS sponsored or affiliated conference are eligible for the award. The 2020 award was presented to “SMU Teaching Bank: Case Study of a Multiyear Development Project Utilizing Student Resources” by Alan Megargel, Terence Fan Ping-Ching, and Venky Shankararaman.

The **Distinguished Member Memorial Award** honors members of the AIS community who have made significant contributions to the field of information systems but, unfortunately, passed away before they could be considered for an AIS Fellow or AIS LEO Award. Recipients of the award are considered to have advanced the field through research or service.

# Celebrating Success

Unfortunately Rolf Wigand, retired Maulden-Entergy Chair and Distinguished Professor of Information Science and Management at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, passed away on September 25. He was a founding and charter member of AIS. AIS honors him with the Distinguished Member Memorial Award.

The Senior Scholars have annually recognized up to five papers with a **Best Information Systems (IS) Publications Award**. This award was established to recognize the breadth of high quality work that is being published in the information systems discipline, and was designed to bring outstanding papers across a range of journals to the attention of the IS community, and to give due credit to the journals in which they are published. 2020 winners include:

- “Data-Driven Computationally Intensive Theory Development” by Nicholas Berente, Stefan Seidel, and Hani Safadi for the journal *Information Systems Research*.

- “Expecting the unexpected: effects of data collection design choices on the quality of crowdsourced user-generated content” by Roman Lukyanenko, Jeffrey Parsons, Yolanda F. Wiersma, and Mahed Maddah for *MIS Quarterly*.
- “Digital Transformation Requires Workforce Transformation” by Rebekah Eden, Andrew Burton-Jones, Veronica Casey, and Michael Draheim for *MIS Quarterly Executive*.

The **ACM SIGMIS Doctoral Dissertation Award** has been awarded annually to at least one outstanding MIS dissertation. The 2020 ACM SIGMIS Doctoral Dissertation Award goes to Jeffrey K. Mullins at the University of Arkansas for his paper “Getting Serious about Games: A Study of Work and Play through Information Systems”.

# 2020 Financial Statements

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.**  
 Statements of Financial Position  
 June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,034,809	\$ 640,291
Investments	1,076,639	1,620,158
Accounts Receivable	170,717	163,131
Conference Advances	270,478	516,032
Prepaid Expenses	<u>122,200</u>	<u>13,812</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,674,843</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,953,424</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable and Other Accruals	\$ 260,296	\$ 160,578
Deferred Revenue	<u>343,620</u>	<u>888,939</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>603,916</b>	<b>1,049,517</b>
<b>Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:</b>		
Undesignated	1,117,933	1,069,644
Designated	<u>952,994</u>	<u>834,263</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>2,070,927</u></b>	<b><u>1,903,907</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,674,843</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,953,424</u></b>

**ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.**  
 Statements of Activities  
 For the Years Ended June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Changes in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:</b>		
Support and Revenue:		
Conferences Registration	\$ 2,344,554	\$ 1,963,054
Membership Dues	744,878	727,521
Journal Subscriptions and Placement Fees	286,751	298,707
Contributions	<u>142,677</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>3,518,860</b>	<b>3,004,282</b>
Interest and Dividend Income	36,533	35,840
Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	<u>(3,978)</u>	<u>38,307</u>
<b>Total Support, Revenue and Gains</b>	<b>3,551,415</b>	<b>3,078,429</b>
Expenses:		
Program Services:		
Conference Expenses	2,187,481	1,779,936
Membership Expenses	281,836	265,635
Publication Expenses	380,120	332,355
Initiatives Expenses	<u>361,303</u>	<u>358,118</u>
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>3,210,740</b>	<b>2,736,044</b>
Management and General	<u>173,655</u>	<u>170,404</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>3,384,395</u></b>	<b><u>2,906,448</u></b>
Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	167,020	171,981
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>1,903,907</u>	<u>1,731,926</u>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b><u>\$ 2,070,927</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,903,907</u></b>



Thank you for your loyalty to AIS during this extremely difficult year!