for other communities and networks. It is not about listing your publications but more about engagement and accessing the right platforms to showcase your research, foster collaborations, and maximize the impact of your academic contributions.

Digital Transforming Research

Information Systems has been having an identity crisis over the past decade, with many IS departments in universities being absorbed into larger faculties and wider subject areas. IS departments are now often found in Business Schools, Computer Science or Information Management departments. Interestingly, Computing as a subject area has maintained a strong presence in universities, now capturing robotics, app development, AI and cybercrime. The UK government and global policy makers continue to highlight significant skills gap that productivity and innovation (Gov.UK, 2021; World Economic Forum, 2023). So, you might be using this book if you are a student on a variety of different programmes and subject areas that might include digital marketing, data analytics, data science or business and management. Digital technology is now embedded across most subject areas and this will be reflected in your research. Conducting a literature review often requires drawing on top key journals from multiple fields fields. For instance, while *Information Systems Journal* (*ISJ*) is a core publication for IS research, researchers engage with publications in related domains, such as artificial intelligence, digital ethics, or human-computer interaction, reflecting both the interdisciplinary nature and the evolving scope of IS. Thirty plus years on from the inception of the internet, *ISJ* has papers on smartphone game players (Chen et al., 2019), smart service systems (Beverungen et al., 2019) and digital activism in an online health community (Chamakiotis et al., 2021). Beverungen et al. (2019) focus on co-creating value, configurations of people, technologies, organizations, and information that make up the smart service systems. Interestingly, then, the components listed in that study are still the core components that make up an information system; it is the technologies and context that have altered. An observation might be that the prefix *smart* is already looking dated to many, but Beverungen et al.'s study is a good exemplar of how different hardware, software, data and behaviours within one system can provide insights into complex socio-technical interactions that IS and computing researchers continue to explore. Digital technologies continue to reshape and disrupt business and society offering new lens lenses to explore. The following digital technologies are a major driving force of the digital transformation currently taking place (Gartner, 2025): with emerging technologies continue to shape research agendas across disciplines. **Agentic AI** is generating interest in autonomous systems and the ethical implications of machine-led decisions, while **AI governance platforms** are prompting investigations into transparency, accountability, and bias mitigation. **Disinformation security** is a growing area, with researchers examining misinformation detection and digital trust. **Post-quantum cryptography** is advancing secure communication in the face of quantum computing threats. **Spatial computing and multitasking robots** are also driving exploration into immersive environments and **adaptive automation**, reflecting the increasing integration of intelligent systems into everyday life.

IS and computing researchers must collaborate to address complex challenges posed by these technologies. This includes tackling ethical concerns, regulatory frameworks, and the broader societal implications of digital transformation (Brynjolfsson and McAfee, 2017; Schwab, 2023). As digital technologies continue to evolve, researchers are uniquely positioned to analyze, innovate, and guide their responsible use.

Research Topic Areas

Post global pandemic (2020–2023), familiarity with and adoption of new technologies and collaborative working tools has enabled researchers to work very flexibly. This is helpful for international or distance-learning students and most university libraries have extensive online resources. The impact and consequences of digital technologies not only offers new ways of carrying out research, but also brings new and extensive research topic areas, such as those listed below:

- **Screen time**: the length of time spent, often in isolation, gazing at screens has become a growing concern and is a valid area for research. This includes addiction to technology, keeping safe online (especially for young people) and online bullying and trolling. Key authors in this area include MIT Professor Sherry Turkle, who has been conducting research for the past 30 years into the psychology of people's relationship with technology (Turkle, 1995; 2011; 2016), and Professor Sonia Livingstone, who has also conducted an impressive and important body of work on child internet safety (Livingstone and Blum-Ross 2020; Livingstone, 2021). Pew Research Center is an American-based 'fact tank' that conducts valid, unbiased research for the public (pewresearch.org).
- **Privacy and surveillance**: these areas can be likened to kaleidoscopic perspectives of the digital landscape. Just consider the ramifications of drones capturing images of a crowd, your activity device sharing and selling on data, or finding out that your home devices are listening in. The key authors in this area are David Lyon, who explores surveillance, power and everyday life (Lyon, 2018), Helen Nissenbaun, who works on free software tools, TrackMeNot and defends privacy online (Benthall et al., 2017), and Shoshana Zuboff, who is passionate about the issues of the surveillance economy, which views your personal data as a product that can be sold to the highest bidder (Zuboff, 2019). Privacy and surveillance are a part of day to day lives now, as outlined by Griffiths, McLean and Kayas (2025) in their study of parents/carers and technologies used to monitor their children's whereabouts and online activity.
- **Digital disruption**: new technologies and innovative business models have radically altered how we conduct business, how we shop, order takeaways, book holidays and even travel. Global organizations have disappeared from the high street because of a new technology or a new way of working. Blockbuster, the video rental store, was superseded by Netflix, who are currently disrupting the film industry, and Uber has disrupted both the cab/taxi hire and takeaway food sector. The key author in this area is Harvard Professor Clayton Christenson, who coined the phrase 'disruptive