**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Telecommunications Data: Access, Availability, Uncertainty and Policy**
Special Issue of *The Information Society*

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**The Journal**
*The Information Society* (TIS), published since 1981, is a leading multidisciplinary journal that advances our understanding of the relationships between information technology and social and organizational change. It is insistent on a conceptual contribution and open to different theoretical approaches, methodologies, and topics.

**Purpose of the Special Issue**
In a time when *big data* promises to fundamentally change decision making processes and public policy for the better, data access, availability and uncertainty remain problematic. Many important data, including broadband pricing and quality-of-service measures, are not made publicly available by telecommunications providers. Worse, many of the data that are provided, including the fixed broadband deployment data provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States are highly uncertain, suffering from poor collection practices, spatial error and/or a lack of provider participation. The goal of this special issue is to bring together insights from researchers investigating information technologies and their implications for human lives whether technical, socio-economic, or political. The special issue will highlight the contemporary significance of access, availability and uncertainty associated with data used to conduct meaningful research and support evidence-based policies and practice in a fast changing world.

The purpose of the papers will be threefold. First, papers will seek to advance understanding of the role availability of quality data plays for independent research in the age of big data. Second, papers will seek to report empirical in-depth insights into the experiences of researchers in dealing with public and private sectors withholding quality data. Third, papers will explore regulatory responses required - or already in place - to address the ongoing challenges in securing quality data.

**Word Length**
TIS's articles are typically 8,000-10,000 words long, and are written vividly with coherent analyses and minimal jargon. However, we are seeking contributions with a limit of 6,000 words to accommodate a diversity of perspectives and experiences.

**Special Issue Timeline**
3 April 2017 – Invitations distributed
30 June 2017 – Deadline for abstract submission (300 words)
15 July 2017 – Authors invited for full-paper submission
15 Nov 2017 – Deadline for paper submission for peer-review

**Abstract Submission**
Please email your abstract to Tony Grubesic (grubesic@asu.edu) and Tooran Alizadeh (tooran.alizadeh@sydney.edu.au) by June 30th, 2017 for consideration.