

Dear ISR Symposium Participants,

As Senior Editors of the ISR special issue on "Digital Systems and Competition," we are pleased to welcome all the invited participants to the symposium designed to support development of this special issue. The Digital Systems and Competition Symposium is graciously being hosted by the Lally School of Management & Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from February 6 - 8, 2009.

Digital systems within and across firm boundaries have become fundamental to business operations, spanning multiple activities in value chains and supply chains. As an important ingredient for creating, producing, and delivering many products and services, digital systems have become inseparable from business strategies and actions. These strategies and actions are in large part responsible for the degree of an organization's competitiveness in today's challenging environment. Thus, there is a pressing need to move to better understand relationships between digital systems and competitive action.

This special issue of ISR is designed to stimulate cutting-edge investigation of the relationship between digital systems and competition, by investigating such questions as: How do digital systems impact competitive actions and competitive dynamics? How do digital systems enable different forms of competition? How can widespread use of digital systems enable competition to occur across traditionally defined industry boundaries?

In response to its call for papers, the special issue yielded 39 submissions that examined such questions in a variety of ways and from a variety of directions. Following a rigorous first round of reviews, authors of twelve of the submissions have been invited to revise and resubmit their work for further consideration. The Digital Systems and Competition Symposium is an important step in the process of revision. Authors will present their work, discuss their revision plans and results, and receive feedback from symposium attendees. In addition to the Senior Editors of the special issue and the authors of the shortlisted papers, attendees will include regular SEs of ISR and members of the editorial review board for this special issue. We look forward to your support of the developmental process for the invited manuscripts.

The program schedule for the symposium is attached. Further details about the event will be forthcoming in the near future.

Sincerely,

Walter Ferrier, University of Kentucky
Clyde W. Holsapple, University of Kentucky
Rajiv Sabherwa, University of Missouri – St. Louis