

## **Using Task Attributes as Contingency Factors in Information System Design**

*Jack Teh*

Utah state University

U.S.A.

*Qing Guan*

University of Nebraska

U.S.A.

### **Abstract**

Management Information System (MIS) research is the systematic investigation of the design, implementation, use and impact of an information system (IS) in an organizational environment. One popular research approach is to explore cognitive issues in the design process. This paper will cast doubts on the usefulness of cognitive study if we neglect to take into account the tasks being performed. In other words, the user's task is a contingency factor in the information system design. This paper will first look at the more frequently cited studies in MIS using cognitive theory as a basis for information system design. Later, we will argue that cognitive theory alone is not adequate to form a basis for system design by presenting several reasons to support this position. A research framework, based on task attributes, is proposed at the end of the paper to provide an avenue for meaningful cognitive research in the future.

*Keywords:* Management Information (MIS), System Design, Cognitive Theory