Abstract
Information-based artifacts are increasingly becoming embedded in wider and constantly shifting digital ecosystems that render them editable, interactive, open, and distributed. As these artifacts diffuse throughout the institutional fabric, their attributes and the operations that they sustain install themselves at the heart of social practice, challenging important canons and traditions in which stable, bounded, and recognizable objects have figured prominently. These ideas are illustrated with reference to 1) provenance and authenticity of digital documents in the overall context of archiving and social memory and 2) the content dynamics associated with Internet search engines. While variously observed in information systems research, the implications of the distinct ontology of information-based artifacts that we refer to as digital objects have not yet been adequately theorized or empirically explored. We argue that the study of digital objects opens up a new frontier for IS research.

Biographical Sketch
Jannis Kallinikos is Professor and PhD programme Director in the Information Systems and Innovation Group, Department of Management at the London School of Economics. His research covers a wide range of topics on the interpenetration of technology with the administrative and institutional arrangements of contemporary societies. More recently and as the result of the technological developments that mark our time, his research has shifted to the investigation of the diffusion of technological information in all its breeds (text, voice, image) and digital formats and the implications these developments carry for organizations, institutions but also for the patterns of interaction characteristic of everyday living. Recent books include The Consequences of Information: Institutional Implications of Technological Change, (Edward Elgar, 2006) and Governing Through Technology: Information Artefacts and Social Practice (Palgrave, 2011). For more information about his research program and published work, follow the links at:
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