

Book Review

Introducing Information Management

Elena Maceviciūtė, T.D Wilson
Facet Publishing, London, 2005
ISBN-85604-561-7

Information Management is evolving as a major discipline comprising different facets. The concepts and components are not limited to information science and systems but encompass artificial intelligence, organizational management, knowledge management, information technology and so on. Recognizing this veracity, the two editors have solicited contributions to address a wide spectrum of concepts that constitute information management.

In the first chapter, "*Information in Organizations: directions for information management*", *Joyce Kirk* have addressed the constituents of information, various perceptions to understand information and the propositions that constitute IM. Outlining the propositions of IM would enable the information managers to contextualize the information in an ideal way. *Elena Maceviciute* and *Wilson* in their article, "The development of the information management research area", have visualized the development of information management research through an analysis of core journals in information management. The emerging trends in IM are codified in their study.

In a topic "Business information culture: a qualitative study of the information culture in the Finish insurance industry", *Gunilla Widen-Wulff* did an empirical analysis in five stages to understand the synergy between information culture and business. The benefits of active information culture are highlighted with the help of results drawn in this study.

Using SIM methodology, the University of Tampere study was carried out by *Huoltair* and *Wilson* and the lessons learned from this work is presented in the article, "Determining organizational information needs". They have also identified the channels and sources used in the electronic information system studied.

Aiki Tibar in a work on "Critical success factors and information needs in industry: an Estonian study" initiated case studies in Finnish companies and came out with the required success factors for information management. The external factors for managing information in the organizational environment are discussed extensively by them. *Louise Limberg* in the work "Experiencing information seeking and learning" has extensively analysed the information seeking in different levels with an emphasis on the role of content.

External sourcing of information is an effective way of information consumption as the internal dependence is insufficient for obvious reasons. *Chun Wei Choo* has scanned the concept environmental scanning in the work, "Environmental Scanning and Decision Making". *Choo* has identified the various modes for environmental scanning and discussed in detail the implications for practice and research. One more chapter on the environmental scanning is on scanning the business environment written by *Zita Correia* and *Wilson*. They have researched the contextual factors that affect the scanning external information in Portuguese chemical industry and how managers' perception of environmental change affect the strategic change they implement.

Managerial information seeking has changed drastically consequent to the global changes in light of the ICT and loosing of economic boundaries. *Shiranhani, de Alwis* and *Susan Higgins* in the chapter on "Managerial information seeking and use behaviour" took Singapore as case study and concluded that the users lack knowledge on both information and systems.

The balance score card is a technique where business can transform and effective information management is possible. *Broadly-Preston* in the chapter on "Balance scorecard, strategy, information and intellectual capital", information flow analysis in business was carried out with a survey. The earlier argument of *Shiranhani, de Alwis* and *Susan Higgins* on the lack of information awareness is reinforced in this chapter where the author has emphasized the role of information professionals. The synergy between information and knowledge management is addressed with the review of empirical evidence by *Bouthillier* and *Shearer* in their

chapter on "Knowledge management and information management". *Wilson* in the chapter on "Knowledge management revisited" has used the reference analysis to know the components of knowledge management. How the information systems strategy is formed in higher education? *David Allen* in a unit has addressed the formation of information strategy in length. The implications of information for health are dealt by *High Preston* with the help of case study in UK. The view the author has is that the local information need should be added in the national information strategy. The IT 2000 initiative of Singapore is considered to discuss the national information infrastructure in the chapter on "National information infrastructure and the realization of the Singapore IT 2000 initiative". *Cordeiro* and *Al-Hawamdeh* have comprehensively addressed this issue with an investigation on the IT 2000 strategy.

The volume of information management presented different perceptions from authors and researchers about the comprehensive approach to information management. The chapters have addressed many views and approaches on this widening area of information management. This collection would initiate and stimulate research in different discussions on information management. The readers will gain an understanding on the facets of information management through this volume.

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Database Modeling and Design

Toby Teorey, Sam Lightstone, Tom Nadeau
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Database concept has gained great momentum in the last few years and its applications are rapidly undergoing unprecedented growth. The database management particularly the relational databases and object oriented databases experience high growth primarily due to more volume of research. This research efforts is mainly due to the increasing demand from the end users and application providers. To support the growing demand, database systems and technology emphasis is placed on databases to resort logical design. This is compounded by the fact that there is also significant improvements in other technologies such as data mining including textual, image, graphical, spatial, temporal, multimedia and reference data.

Different methodologies constitute the logical designing and modeling of databases. Out of the available methodologies, the authors have employed both conceptual data model and the relational model for the logical database design. The comprehensive contents of this book is arranged in nine different chapters, each describes the design as well as other database technologies such as Unified Modeling Language, business intelligence etc. Conceptual data modeling is a pre-requisite for an efficient logical database design. This is illustrated with an entity-relationship model, one of the two principal approaches used in this book. The recent *Unified Modeling language-2* (UML 2) has relation with the ER model and this is deployed in the chapter on Unified Modelling Language.

The entity-relation model is dealt with specific discussions on advanced ER constructs and the basic concepts of the ER model. A detailed description is presented by the authors on the use of ER and UML approaches to the database life cycle. The user requirement analysis is the core issue in the logical design which is illustrated specifically in a separate chapter. The ER model with much emphasis on associations, and relationships and clusters constitute a chapter. The transformation model with explicit presentation of rules and steps to SQL forms the core of explanations given by the authors in the unit on transforming the conceptual data model to SQL.

Redundant data in large tables pose big problems particularly in the relational database tables. This is addressed and the ways to normalize the relational databases and the database design step that normalizes the candidate tables in steps form the unit on

normalization. An explicit presentation on Business intelligence is a major strength of this book. For the beginners of database, there is a elegant presentation on SQL in the appendix. The book is supplemented by a detailed glossary. Exercises, examples and solutions to them constitute an important part of this book. This book is a useful reading for both beginners and the advanced users as the contents integrate elements that would address large number of audience at different levels.

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Conference Notification

The **4th International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT 2006)** will take place in Amman, Jordan during April 5-7, 2006.

The website for the conference is

<http://csit2006.asu.edu.jo>

This non-profit multiconference focuses on all areas of Information Science, Computer Science and Information Technology. We invite paper submissions for this event. Paper submission deadline is Dec. 1st 2005. **The best papers of the conferences will be published in a special issue of the indexed and peer reviewed journals.** After the conference, there is a free trip to the ancient city PETRA.

For the conference updates, please visit the above conference URL.

CSIT2006 Chair
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IMCL 2006 will be held from April 19 - 21, 2006 in Amman, Jordan

www.imcl-conference.org

Please note the following:

- There are no registration fees
- One author of each accepted paper will be full board hosted in Jordan.
- Best selected papers will be published in one of three selected international journals.
- Discount of 15% in airplane tickets with Royal Jordanian air lines.

For more information, please contact Prof. Al-Zoubi A, the conference Co-Chair, Dean for Scientific Research, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan.

Email: zoubi@psut.edu.jo URL: <http://www.psut.edu.jo>

Call For Papers

Web Information Retrieval

Special Issue - *Journal of Digital Information Management (JDIM)* - 2006

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Scope of the Issue and Significance of Web information retrieval

The amount of available information on the Web is continuously increasing. Web search techniques were initially based on the analysis of the Web structure, as well as the documents' textual content. Recent applications, such as the retrieval from blogs, enterprise and intranet searching, or context-dependent searching, require new retrieval techniques.

This special issue of the *Journal of Digital Information Management (JDIM)* will address recent and original developments in the Web information retrieval field, including those described above. We welcome high-quality papers addressing the theoretical and/or the practical issues underlying the retrieval of information from the Web.

Submissions to the special issue should not be under consideration in any other journal or conference and will be evaluated according to the *Journal of Digital Information Management (JDIM)* reviewing criteria and appropriateness to the special issue. Papers will be reviewed for their content, technical feature, methodology, originality and results.

Themes:

Topics of interest include but are not limited to the following areas:

Adversarial search (anti-spamming techniques)
Blog and online-community search
Building Web test collections
Clustering and categorization
Context-dependent Web search
Data fusion and metasearch engines
Distributed and P2P retrieval techniques
Enterprise/Intranet search
Evaluation
Formal Web retrieval models
Machine learning
Natural language processing techniques
New Web search applications
News search and filtering
Open source architectures and systems
Performance, compression and scalability
Personalisation and information filtering
Question answering
Semi-structured data
Summarisation
Types of web search
User interfaces and visualization
User behaviour
Web mining and Web usage mining
Web structure analysis

Submission of Papers:

The papers can be submitted to any of the editors electronically either in pdf or doc format.

Important Dates:

Paper Submission Due: 20 March 2006
Review and notification to authors: 20 May 2006
Camera Ready Papers: 20 July 2006
Publication: Sep./Dec. 2006