BOOK REVIEW

Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology

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Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology
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At first glance, it is easy to foresee the value of the newly released Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology. The set, comprised of five volumes, makes a significant contribution toward a synthesis of the information technology literature into one user-friendly repository. The encyclopedia contains a plethora of comprehensive information regarding all conceivable research areas within the management information systems (MIS) discipline.

Not only does the Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology comprehensively map the IT literature, but it covers the world map in terms of global contributions and expertise. The diverse repertoires of authors insure a global perspective of topics, with contributions contained in these volumes submitted by more than 900 researchers from more than 50 countries. With more than 11,500 sources of information, this reference extraordinaire should be required reading for all MIS students, researchers, academicians and business practitioners and literally all information professionals.

I found that the most admirable quality of the Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology is its ease of use. It covers concepts, terms, processes, acronyms and algorithms as well as thousands of references that constitute a comprehensive literature review of every conceivable information technology topic. In addition, it features two indexes—one a general index of the full set and the other a topic index that allows you to look up a subject and be given page numbers for all instances it appears in the full encyclopedia.

One important point for librarians to consider is that with the purchase of the Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology, libraries will gain complimentary online access, including periodic updates and additions to the electronic version, for the life of the edition.

As an MIS professor, I am constantly faced with staying abreast of technology changes. I often face the dilemma of finding appropriate definitions and terminology
that accurately defines my student’s questions about information technology. The Encyclopedia of Information Science and Technology is an exhaustive and convenient method of meeting these needs. The information encapsulated in these volumes helps me to access concepts, issues, trends and technologies that face present and future educators, researchers, and IT professionals. I would recommend these volumes to all of my technical and behavioral information technology colleagues.