Foreword

The all-pervasiveness of information in the present day influences the concept of Information Society. The dilution of its content and meaning has specifically misrepresented the discernment of researchers all around the world to actually define the disorganized information in their interpretative arguments over streamlining the precise significance of the Information Society. In this context, momentous professional deliberation and international cooperation from the academic world has become obligatory to understand the factors influencing development of the Information Society.

The book is intended for the audience researching into human communication aspects in the digital era. The multi-dimensional approach of this book helps frame suitable strategies on consumption of both information and knowledge in the information society or knowledge society. Policy makers, academicians, researchers and government officials will find this book useful in exposing them to various facets in the Information Society.

The chapters in this book make a valuable contribution and are hospitable to the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in diverse fields such as health, education, governance, to name a few. The book is targeted to all those who indefatigably work on various research prerogatives to noticeably identify the implication of these ICTs to its potential user.

This anthology has Twenty-Two chapters assembled by the three editors to reflect the contemporary philosophy in the application of ICTs from the ongoing research projects in both developed and developing countries. The editors have focused on the economic and cultural impacts of the Information Society by grouping the chapters into four sections. The first section looks at the components of the information society, its citizen-centricity and meaningfulness in the context of its application and usage. The second section considers various innovative practices of the emerging technologies in the domains previously difficult to reach. The third section addresses the cultural transformation of information by its end user in various ICT based applications. The last section concentrates on the rural development strategies and applications of ICT towards empowering the underprivileged.

I recommend that this be well thought-out as a reference book for the Information Society to facilitate the researchers from both academic and professional entities to develop innovative products for user consumption in the days ahead. It is pertinent to append that the Indian government and the rest in the world have appreciably helped numerous organizations to partake of generating novel expertise in the use of these technologies, hence contributing a rich source to the Information Society. I have no doubt that this edited volume will be yet another resourceful literary addition in understanding the emerging new media and information society paradigms.

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