Foreword

The topic and issues associated with managing big data integration in the public sector are on the minds of numerous stakeholders. A variety of perspectives and needs exist based on the roles that individuals and organizations as well as governments embody in pursuit of dealing with this complex situation.

Big data opens the way for new ways of thinking but, without integration, can easily not have the envisioned impact. Far too often, data exists in silos without appreciation of the benefits of integration. Public sector agencies are particularly susceptible given their varied history and differences in use of big data. Integration, when done effectively, opens the door to sustainable solutions that here-to-fore have not been recognized. Unfortunately, relatively few examples exist that can provide meaningful insight.

The sections and associated papers bring a variety of issues to the fore that warrants recognition and serious consideration. The papers are well chosen to cover a wide gamut of perspectives. The projects and studies described in the papers help underscore issue importance and additionally suggest solution strategies. The reality is there is no “one size fits all” prescription but experiences can help assist in intelligent approaches. This book is a solid step in that direction.

The sections and associated papers go significantly beyond issue description and offer sound managerial advice in bringing technology and people together in a culturally sensitive fashion. This is especially important in arriving at robust and sustainable solutions through behavioral change. Sustained behavior change is difficult and warrants special attention to continuously react, adapt and avoid relapse. Management attention is paramount to success.

Healthcare provides special challenges as well as opportunities in the integrated application and management of big data as a salient example. Particularly sensitive issues related to privacy and security must be addressed while, at the same time, recognizing the benefits and potential of insight that can be gained by citizens as well as healthcare professionals and their respective organizations. Simply put, no country in the world can continue to pursue healthcare as it is currently being implemented given the dramatic change in population dynamics.

In conclusion, Managing Big Data Integration in the Public Sector is a particularly useful book with appeal to a wide range of stakeholders interested in the topic area. Although numerous challenges remain, this book provides a step forward that is insightful and useful as stakeholders struggle to achieve sustainable solutions. Emerging issues are introduced that encourage thinking beyond the current state that can lead to an even brighter future and genuine societal benefit.

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