Preface

The aim of this information galore book was galvanised by the drive the role information technology and enterprise e-Commerce solutions play in the current wave of business operations and education at both higher educational institutions and business organisations. The nature of studying the impact of enterprise electronic commerce solutions at higher education institutions poses some rather challenging circumstances and issues. Even more challenging is investigating the degree or extent to which electronic commerce bears impact on the administrative hierarchy and organisational leadership. The dynamics involved include that of leadership and enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business. While there exist copious management theories in the literature, one that is particular to this text is the notion that technology is the single most important determinant of organisational behaviour as delineated by Dubin. The aforementioned, coupled with the fact that effective leadership in this regard at institutions and organisations is critically imminent, is the center of this book.

To reconnoitre this effect, two research studies, independent of each other, are presented in this book. The first research and also the major or core study presented in this book has been designed to reconnoitre the impact of e-Commerce solutions on organisational leadership/hierarchies at higher educational institutions and, in this comprehensive study, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Historically black colleges and universities were chosen for this study because of their inimitable and numerous roles in providing education for minorities (see section on “Background of the Problem”). This research should serve to stimulate and heighten research interests in e-Commerce solutions at higher educational institutions and historically black colleges and universities. Furthermore, this research will create significant awareness in enterprise electronic commerce applications not only at historically black colleges and universities but also at higher institutions nationally and globally. The second study in this book also delves into the impact of electronic commerce looking at the relationship between etiquettes and the efficacies of enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business and business decision-making at not only higher educational institutions but also at organisations.

The rationale for marrying the two studies in this book is for the mere fact that the success of organisations and institutions lie in major part with them knowing their surroundings and in regarding the Internet as a society. In this era, institutions and organisations and their leadership must be well acquainted and respectful of this Internet society. The study on the etiquette governing the Internet presented in Chapter 9, meant to augment the first study, delineates the direct relationship between the etiquette of the Internet and e-Commerce and the decision-making process at institutions and organisations. As shown by these two studies, enterprise e-Commerce solutions and the Internet or e-Commerce etiquettes are intertwined and go hand in hand.
ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is designed to guide the researcher through the research process and also set a perspective on the bearing of information technology on business organisations and institutions; particularly, this information galore book presents a study conducted using a mixed methodology. To achieve this—re-connoitre this impact at both organisations and higher educational institutions—the results from a study designed to investigate the impact of eCommerce/eBusiness on organisational leadership/hierarchies at historically black colleges and universities are presented. A second study, meant to study critical issues governing enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business to study the impact of the electronic commerce etiquette and business efficacies and decision-making at both organisations and institutions is also presented. In efforts to stimulate understanding and galvanise reader-interest for this material, this book is divided into sections in which relationships between information technology, eCommerce, and Organisational Leadership are delineated.

The first chapter provides an overview and encapsulates eCommerce and Organisational Leadership, building the fundamentals of the purpose of the study. The following chapters tackle relationships that govern Information Technology, eCommerce, and Organisational Leadership, respectively, and capping it with mixed methodology. Additional bonus chapters tackle cloud computing and the virtual age computing.

Leadership intertwined with information technology and enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business for that matter as discussed in this book is on the tenets of viewing technology as an extremely critical determinant of working behaviour. While this is true, the rapid rise and change in technology and its impact on business operations and educational trend call for leaders—transformational leaders—to mobilise their organisations to assimilate into the ever-growing technological era.

Readers at the university undergraduate and graduate levels and any individual seeking self-illumination in the areas of research and information technology will find this book illuminating.

Features of Chapters

Each chapter begins with an Introduction, meant to motivate the reader. In addition to the chapters organised by sections and subsections where necessary, summary and key terms and definitions at the end of each chapter, they also include figures and tables.

CHAPTERS

Chapter 1: In constructing the framework, chapter 1 covers the digital age, popularised by electronic commerce. This chapter sheds light on the digital age and electronic commerce.

Chapter 2: This chapter introduces readers to information technology and the transition to enterprise electronic commerce. In addition, the chapter takes a look at some enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business implementations at higher educational institutions and organisations.

Chapter 3: This chapter brings to bear the connection between information technology and organisational leadership. The chapter also presents the research participants, higher echelon administrators at higher educational institutions across the United States of America.
Chapter 4: In this chapter, extensive discussion of enterprise electronic commerce or electronic business is presented. The history, models, factors leading to successful or failed implementations, and other legal, cultural, social, and ethical factors of enterprise electronic commerce are discussed.

Chapter 5: In this chapter, the essence of the integration of information technology and today’s leadership is delineated. The chapter shows how much of a critical factor it is for institutions and business organisations to have leaders who are willing and able to embrace, adopt, and lead them in this era.

Chapter 6: The construction of the research methodology for the study, the development of the hypotheses, the data collection, and the data analysis are provided in extensive detail in this chapter.

Chapter 7: The systematic analysis of the research data are presented in this chapter. The analysis included univariate, bivariate, and multivariate and content analysis.

Chapter 8: This chapter presents the discussions from the research study. It justifies what sets this study apart from previous studies.

Chapter 9: This chapter takes a look at the etiquette that governs the Internet and electronic commerce or electronic business vis-à-vis business decision-making.

Chapter 10: In this chapter, an introductory cloud computing is presented. While the chapter covers some concepts regarding cloud computing, it does not tackle them in total.

Chapter 11: In this chapter, an exclusive discussion on digital and virtual age as they relate to the educational trend and online education is provided.

Chapter 12: The encapsulation of the main research study is presented in this chapter. The chapter also discusses recommendations and future endeavors.