Foreword

Enron, WorldCom, Vivendi, Pramalat, the list goes on and the shockwaves of these companies collapse can be felt across the globe. Certainly we have seen tightening of regulation but this alone will not stop the continued failure of firms. What is apparent from the failure is that not only did corporate governance systems fail but also the information being used by boards of directors and investors to make strategic decisions was inadequate and underutilized. This book is timely in that it provides an update of the state of strategic intelligence systems. The emergence of intelligence systems from the areas of management information systems, executive information systems, and competitive intelligence sees a shift from internal data to external and from historic to future orientated information.

Senior management needs the support and challenge of divergent and challenging information. The stimulus of new information and ideas helps drive forward the business. The editor has brought together an existing and innovative collection of articles that map current developments in strategic intelligence. The progression of data to information and knowledge is a process of sense-making. This sense-making emphasizes the pull of enquiry rather than the push of data. Intelligence is the structuring of meaning coming from the scanning of the environment and performance of the firm. These are the skills needed in the corporate boardrooms and investment communities if they are to avoid the catastrophic collapses. This collection provides a stimulating review of all aspects of Managing Strategic Intelligence: Techniques to Technologies.

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