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Section I. Fundamental Concepts and Theories

This section serves as the foundation for this exhaustive reference tool by addressing crucial theories essential to the understanding of IT outsourcing. Chapters found within these pages provide an excellent framework in which to position outsourcing within the field of information science and technology. Individual contributions provide overviews of why, when, and what to outsource, business determinants of offshoring intensity, and global IT outsourcing, while also exploring critical stumbling blocks of this field. Within this introductory section, the reader can learn and choose from a compendium of expert research on the elemental theories underscoring the research and application of outsourcing.

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This section presents contemporary coverage of the managerial implications of outsourcing. Particular contributions address risks, benefits, and challenges of outsourcing, vendor perspectives of outsourced projects, and business strategies for outsourcing. The managerial research provided in this section allows executives, practitioners, and researchers to gain a better sense of how outsourcing practices, projects, and research are continually informed by the changing global landscape.

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Section VII. Critical Issues

This section addresses conceptual and theoretical issues related to the field of outsourcing, which include security issues, establishing trust, aligning business process, and business continuity challenges. Within these chapters, the reader is presented with analysis of the most current and relevant conceptual inquiries within this growing field of study. Overall, contributions within this section ask unique, often theoretical questions related to the study of IT outsourcing and, more often than not, conclude that solutions are both numerous and contradictory.

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Section VIII. Emerging Trends

This section highlights research potential within the field of outsourcing while exploring uncharted areas of study for the advancement of the discipline. Chapters within this section highlight developments in China and India's outsourcing practices, eSourcing relationships, and the 24-hour knowledge factory. These contributions, which conclude this exhaustive, multi-volume set, provide emerging trends and suggestions for future research within this rapidly expanding discipline.

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