Chapter 15
Final Considerations

ABSTRACT

This is the end of an interdisciplinary journey and the beginning of another in terms of the understanding of the enterprise in the new information technology era. Therefore, this chapter briefly reviews what has been learned in the discussions in the previous chapters, and, as its main focus, presents some of the issues that remain largely unexplored.

1. WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED ABOUT THE DIGITAL (OR DIGITALIZED) ENTERPRISE?

Section 1 laid down three views of the enterprise and suggested a unified view of the previous three. First, it was examined some of the main theories and models developed by economists dealing with the enterprise addressing its existence, structure, behavior, and relationship to the market. The purpose here was to highlight the main aspects Economists research in order to understand how the enterprise emerges, organizes and governs itself and grows.

Second, some of the main theories and schools of thought developed by managers and business activists dealing with enterprises were treated. The purpose was to address the main issues Managers research in order to understand the way the enterprise should be managed and how its resources could be allocated as a source of competitive advantage.

Third, the information systems’ view of the enterprise was analyzed. The objective was to present the main elements of the origin, evolution and establishment of the historical interpretations, theories and models that govern the Information Systems view of enterprises, organizations and institutions, with a particular focus on the structure and dynamics of enterprises.

Then, a unified view of the enterprise, combining the three previous views (economic + management + information systems), was introduced by presenting two novel models: the AID (Analyticize-Integrate-Decide) Model and the AGG (Architecture-Governance-Growth) Model. The discussion was an attempt to develop an innovative and interdisciplinary framework to deal with the combination of three disciplinary ways of viewing the enterprise in the digital age.

Section 2 presented the first dimension of the AGG model (the architecture realm), how it has emerged as an entrepreneurial concept (embedded in the concept of enterprise architecture), and