

BOOK REVIEW

Organizational Integration of Enterprise Systems and Resources: Advancements and Applications

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Organizational Integration of Enterprise Systems and Resources: Advancements and Applications

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Astwo of the reviewers teach or have taught in School of Information Technology, School of Management, and School of Education and Applied Languages, at Ming Chuan University, one of the top universities in Taiwan (<http://www.mcu.edu.tw/>), we are happy to apply our experience in this review *Organizational Integration of Enterprise Systems and Resources: Advancements and Applications*. Ming Chuan

University has received much acclaim for its quality education, having earned top ranking among northern Taiwan colleges and universities in the departmental accreditations carried out by the Higher Education Evaluation and Assessment Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) in 2009.

The *Organizational Integration of Enterprise Systems and Resources: Advancements and Applications* is a comprehensive source of insight into Enterprise Information Systems (EIS). This book is instrumental in providing an overview of the EIS trends, via case studies, to illustrate the advantages and means by which EIS impacts global business and the world economy. Moreover, the authors teach how to choose, conduct and exploit appropriate EIS models and use the tool well to make correct decisions, and solve problems. In reviewing this

book, we have chosen to extract the snippets that resonate with highly relevant considerations when developing new commercial affairs modules for the rapidly changing and challenging business environments.

This book is based on an extensive research foundation that has been carried out by the authors and covers a wide range of topics related to such business administration notions as adaptive learning cycles, cost estimation, ERP development, ERP systems, information systems, IT governance, knowledge society, organization identity, supply management, systems, and vector consensus model. It is worth noting that the greatest value and forte of this book, in our opinion, is that its authors were able to systematically address each of the components of this immense subject, providing clear-cut explanations and specific examples to explicitly and successfully get their point across to the reader.

According to the authors' perspective, the reason to adopt innovative commercial tools aimed at facilitating and improving business decisions, and promoting companies to apply this assistance to solve business problems. "Information Technology (IT) is redefining the business basis. Customer attendance, operations, products strategies, marketing and distribution and even the society of knowledge depend, sometimes even totally, on information system (IS)" (p. 23). This represents that IT has already become a best-practices reference guide of commercial professionals. "The concept of IT governance emerges in a context where information technology has become pervasive in a dynamic, competitive and turbulent business environment" (p. 27).

This book offers case studies to point out the important role that higher education institutes play in providing a practical focus within the education sphere. Universities have the responsibility to teach students not only business professional knowledge but also well-known information systems, such as ERP systems. "Especially for the productivity of countries like Germany, education is an important factor for future and sustainable development: 'The

academic system in higher education accomplishes an important and long-lasting effective contribution for the advancement of growth an innovation and therefore for the dealing with the challenges of the demographic and economic change.' (German Science Council, 2006)" (p. 77). "The main goal of using enterprise systems, such as ERP systems, Business Intelligence, etc., in higher education is to prepare the students for real work life and to give them practical experience in the application of these technologies" (p. 78). Moreover, the authors consider the actual needs of higher education and students. "The dimensions of learning management systems are wide: from learner self-service, training workflow, online learning and assessment to the complete management of the continuous professional education, collaborative learning and training resource management" (p. 82).

To find out the reasons for success and failure of ERP systems, this book introduces a web survey from Portuguese companies and related consulting teams. Based on the findings, the success of the process itself can be summarized in the following points: "Focus on business processes and requirements first; Do not rush the decision; Provide adequate training and Organizational commitment; Commit between customization and process adaptation" (p. 146). Furthermore, the enterprise management (EM) approach provides a holistic view of organizations and their related information systems. The authors elaborate how ERP engage-abilities cater to three distinctive EM patterns and resultant strategies, to examine the presumptions and importance of combining ERP and inter-firm relations relying on the virtual value chain concept. "(1) Reinforce the interdependencies and consistencies between ERP and EM strategy domains; (2) Consider how current and future ERP systems may correspond to different enterprise patterns; (3) Develop a sustainable conceptual dynamic framework to guide enterprise managers for making better decisions about enterprise-wide strategy, structure transformation and technical support" (p. 184).

The relationship existing between a business process and the supporting software system plays an important role in the software evolution process, as it helps to identify the software components involved in a software change request. The research described in this book concerns the use of information retrieval techniques in the software maintenance activities. "The results suggested the strong correlation existing between business activities and process components and, according to the initial hypothesis, indicated that the business information effectively provides a significant help to software maintainers. Learning from this experience, this book proposes an approach, based on Information Retrieval, aiming at sup-

porting software maintainers with the business process knowledge that is useful for clarifying change requirements concerning the software systems" (p. 251).

Organizational Integration of Enterprise Systems and Resources: Advancements and Applications is a highly recommended book. The extracted snippets illustrate the wide range of real-world cases that will highlight the significance, application, and effects of EIS for readers, practitioners, researchers and professionals, and illustrate the comprehensive spectrum of current trends. Therefore, we will certainly be referencing it as we to advance our own and our students' concepts, knowledge, experience, and applications of EIS.

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Pei-Di Shen now works as Director of the Teacher Education Center and professor of Graduate School of Education, Ming Chuan University, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Shen is one of the Editors-in-Chief of International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design. Her primary interest areas are E-learning, Knowledge Management, Virtual Community, and Management Information Systems. Her research focus is distance delivery in higher education.

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