

Editorial review

Decision-making support systems: Theory and practice by Udo Averweg is a valuable contribution to the contemporary literature on Decision Support Systems (DSS). Its value is in the coverage not only of the basics but also of its broader relationship to Executive Information Systems, of the impact of contemporary web based technologies on the field, of the exploration of the applicability to the DSS field of the most widely used Information Systems research method – the Technology Acceptance Model and the review of critical success factors for decision support systems implementation.

Some academic researchers have lost interest in this field in its traditional format as they are typically driven by the current fashion wave in the Information Systems field. That has limited the research interest in DSS mainly to Business Intelligence, discussed briefly by the author in the last chapter. However the coverage of the topics in this book is relevant both for the general research issues in DSS and for the practitioner understanding of the field. The latter is important as current books on DSS are rare while most of the implementation issues for Decision Support Systems need continuous and patient work on a daily basis and this book can be used as a valuable reference for that purpose. The value of the book as a reference for future practical and research work is considerable also because of the excellent collection of literature sources listed at the end of each chapter. The only omissions from those are the work of Steven Alter, whose 1980 DSS book was very influential; the reviews of the DSS field by Sean Eom and the more recent work by Graham Pervan.

The content of the book is a reflection of the author's deep practical experience and a focused fifteen year research program in Decision Support Systems. Some of the chapters are based on research by the author on DSS topics focused on South Africa and Spain, while others have appeared previously as reviews of the state of the art in several specialized encyclopedia on DSS related topics. I believe this book will have an impact on the international audience interested in learning more about understanding, researching, using and implementing Decision Support Systems.

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June 2012