

Preface

This volume is the result of a request to me in late 2007 from Professor Ramesh Sharda, of Oklahoma State University, editor of the *Annals of Information Systems*. I had recently completed editing a special issue of the journal, *OMEGA: The International Journal of Management Science*, on “KM & OL” (vol. 36, no. 2, April 2008) and a special issue of the *MIS Quarterly* on the “Offshoring of IS” (co-edited with Reza Torkzadeh) (vol. 32, no. 2, June 2008) both of which I had found to be pleasant learning experiences. There were so many worthwhile papers that were submitted for the “KM & OL” OMEGA special issue that I could not publish because of the severe space limitations of a journal issue, that I thought that it might be useful to do another project on the same topic. So, I accepted his invitation and submitted a proposal to the editors at Springer that was promptly accepted by Springer and the series editor.

I notified all of the prior submitters about the new project as well as posting notices of it on IS World and other electronic venues. Interestingly, I do not believe that any of those who had their papers rejected for the OMEGA special issue submitted those papers for this Annals volume. (Am I to suppose that they were angry at me for their rejections?)

Chapters were due in May 2008. By the due date, more than 40 submissions were received, with a few more received later through special permissions granted by me due to exigencies.

Chapters were reviewed by the authors of other submissions plus several doctoral students at the University of Pittsburgh who I thought would benefit from doing such reviews. In this regard, Greg Moody was especially helpful in reviewing chapters and in performing other tasks related to the review process. Generally, each author did about two reviews. The criteria that were given to the reviewers to judge the papers were: research-orientation, innovativeness, rigor and validity and quality of writing.

Each chapter that was not rejected after the first round of reviews was revised at least once based on the reviews and my recommendations; some were revised several times. Some that were revised were eventually rejected, so the review process was very much like that of a quality journal.

The manuscript for the volume was submitted to Springer in early December of 2008. Thus, the entire project took a little more than a year. This is consistent with my view that most academic publishing projects take far too long and that a combination of good management by the editor, motivated reviewers and a commitment to meeting deadlines on the part of the authors and reviewers permits such efforts to be completed in a manner that will make results available to the academic and practitioner communities much more quickly. This issue is discussed more fulsomely in the introductory paper in the *MIS Quarterly* special issue (32(2), June 2008, pp. 205–226).

I wish to thank Professor Sharda, Neil Levine and Carolyn Ford of Springer, all of the submitter-reviewers and the doctoral students on whom I imposed, for their support in this effort. Obviously, an editor cannot successfully produce such a volume without a great deal of effective and timely work by others.

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