

# Preface

Beyond official relationships, that GfKI (Gesellschaft für Klassifikation) and JCS (Japanese Classification Society) as member societies of IFCS (International Federation of Classification Societies) cultivate, the societies have started to intensify the scientific exchange of ideas, views, and knowledge – first on a personal basis and subsequently via the organization of joint meetings in form of conferences and workshops. After the first joint Japanese-German Symposium in Tokyo (2005) and the second German-Japanese Symposium in Berlin (2006) – results of which were published in a special volume of “Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization” under the title “Cooperation in Classification and Data Analysis” – the third meeting took place together with the annual conference of GfKI in Karlsruhe (2010) followed by the fourth Japanese-German Symposium organized in Kyoto (2012). According to the nature of these meetings there are no restrictions concerning research directions presented at these symposia, all new concepts and activities are welcome on which German and Japanese researchers in the field of data analysis (in the broad sense) are currently working.

Given the just described tradition this volume contains substantially extended and further developed material presented at the last symposia with emphasis on results introduced at Kyoto (2012). As an unambiguous assignment of topics addressed in single contributions is sometimes difficult, the peer-reviewed articles of this volume are grouped in a way that the editors thought appropriate. Three parts concerning “Clustering”, “Analysis of Data and Models” and “Applications” have been formed. Within the chosen parts the presentations are listed in alphabetical order with respect to the authors’ names. At the end of this volume an index is included that, additionally, should help the interested reader.

Some of the papers which were presented at Karlsruhe (2010) and Kyoto (2012) and are not contained in this volume have been or will still be published elsewhere in the scientific literature (see, e.g., the proceedings of the Karlsruhe GfKI (2012) conference under the title “Challenges at the Interface of Data Analysis, Computer Science, and Optimization” in the Springer series “Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization”).

This volume – which can serve as another proof that the longstanding and close relationships between the members of GfKI and JCS are growing further – would not have been possible without the personal assistance of colleagues and friends as well as the financial support of organizations which foster scientific research.

From the German side especially DFG (Deutsche ForschungsGemeinschaft) should be mentioned as without her generous support the participation of German researchers at the Japanese meetings would not have been possible. Additionally, KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), Institut für Entscheidungstheorie und Unternehmensforschung and Lehrstuhl für Informationsdienste & Elektronische Märkte from Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften at KIT have to be named.

From the Japanese side, the hospitality extended by the Faculty of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University, is appreciated whose support made it possible to have Kyoto (2012) in the good environment of the old capital Kyoto. Grateful acknowledgment is made to Mathematical Systems Inc., JAPAN, for its kind support.

Finally, we thank the referees for their comments, suggestions and annotated copies w.r.t. the submitted papers and all those who helped to make the symposia at Karlsruhe (2010) and Kyoto (2012) scientifically important and successful meeting points for our colleagues.

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