

Preface

After exploring *Trends, Challenges and Opportunities* in the third edition of our book in 2009, we felt it is time again to re-assess the status quo of the contemporary Information Systems (IS) Outsourcing domain. For this reason, we invited renowned scholars and key practitioners to the fourth International Conference on Outsourcing of Information Services (ICOIS) to Mannheim, Germany, which was held in June 2013. The papers presented at the conference have been the basis for discussion and documentation of this edition of our book.

At Mannheim, it became obvious that the majority of the contributions to the conference shifted their focus towards new forms and mechanisms of outsourcing that aim at offering a more value-oriented perspective on IS outsourcing. Hence, we deemed it appropriate to change the subtitle of this fourth edition to *Towards Sustaining Business Value* in order to offer another excellent roadmap of the current IS outsourcing research, highlighting new perspectives while refining existing practices under a new common umbrella.

After carefully discussing and refining the submitted papers, we decided to structure the content of this book into seven parts: (I) Innovation Management, (II) Governance Frames, (III) Dynamic Governance Adaptation, (IV) Multi-vendor and Multi-client Ecosystem Management, (V) International Growth: The Case of China, (VI) Social Responsibility and Social Capital Management, and (VII) Crowdsourcing and Open Platforms. Each of these themes is explored in this book from a client or from a vendor value perspective. Like in the previous editions, our monograph serves as a basis for further interactions and discussions in the rich and dynamic field of IS outsourcing. We are convinced that the monograph is of interest to academics and graduate students in the field of Information Systems as well as to corporate executives and professionals who seek a better understanding of the underlying value drivers of IS outsourcing.

Such a piece of work is solely feasible, if many parties cooperate at a highly intense level. In fact, it would not be publishable without the significant input of all researchers involved. Thus, our deepest gratitude goes to all participating authors for their important contributions and professional cooperation. You have laid the foundation for this book! We also owe many thanks to those team members who

supported us with respect to the administrative activities of the underlying conference and this monograph. Therefore, we would very much like to thank Tommi Kramer and Lea Offermann from Mannheim for organising the third ICOIS. In a similar vein, we would also like to thank Fabio Isler from Bern who designed the ICOIS website, and who supported us in editing this book. While we are very grateful to the authors for the chapters of this book, we take responsibility for the content and any errors.

We hope that you, as our readers, find the fourth edition as vivid and insightful as our previous editions.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-662-43819-0>

Information Systems Outsourcing
Towards Sustainable Business Value
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2014, IX, 515 p. 54 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-662-43819-0