

# Preface

The idea of editing this book emerged during the fourth meeting on Combinatorial Optimization, Routing and Location, held in Benicassim, Spain, in May 2012 (CORAL 2012) and was formalized during the 12th International Symposium on Locational Decisions (ISOLDE XII), held in Nagoya and Kyoto, Japan, in July the same year.

Our goal was to edit a comprehensive and structured book gathering the essential knowledge on modern Location Science, as opposed to a collection of exhaustive surveys or a pedagogical textbook with worked examples and exercises. Rather, this is a book on “what you should know” about various aspects of Location Science. It provides the basic knowledge and structures of the field. It can be used either in standard academic programs or in specialized courses.

The book contains an introduction to modern Location Science and 23 chapters grouped under three main headings: basic concepts (five chapters), advanced concepts (12 chapters), and applications (six chapters).

We have identified some of the best reputed specialists in the field to write the different chapters of the book. Each chapter was reviewed several times by at least one of the editors. The process was completed within two years. Today we are glad to present to the location community a high quality book which we hope to update on a regular basis.

We thank all the authors who accepted our challenge to be involved in this book. The quality of their work together with their dedication and enthusiasm contributed to making this project a success.

Finally, thanks are also due to Mr Christian Rauscher and to the Springer staff for their help and encouragement throughout this project.

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Location Science

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2015, XVI, 644 p. 94 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-13110-8