Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dmitri Roussinov is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Information Systems, Arizona State University. He has several publications in leading information systems and science journals, such as *Decision Support Systems* and *Information Processing and Management*. He received his PhD in MIS from the University of Arizona and has a prior MA degree in Economics from Indiana University, and a diploma with honors in Computer Science from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia. Prior to joining ASU, Dr. Roussinov served two years as faculty of the Syracuse University, School of Information Studies. His recent studies involved clustering of text documents, mining semantic similarity relationships from co-occurrence statistics, identifying genre of web documents, machine learning and question answering on the web.

J. Leon Zhao is Associate Professor and Honeywell Fellow of MIS, University of Arizona and has previously taught in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and College of William and Mary. He holds a PhD degree from the University of California, Berkeley, an MS degree from the University of California, Davis, and a bachelor's degree from Beijing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization. He has published over 80 refereed research articles in academic conferences and journals including *Management Science*, *Information Systems Research*, *Communications of the ACM*, and *Journal of Management Information Systems*. He is Associate Editor for *Decision Support Systems*, *Electronic Commerce Research and Applications*, *International Journal of Web Services Research*, and *International Journal of Business Process Integration and Management*. He also serves on the editorial board of *Journal of Database Management*. He is a co-chair of the Second Workshop on e-Business, 2003 and the 15th Workshop on Information Technology and Systems, 2005.

Business Intelligence can be defined as the use of advanced software techniques that exhibit a certain degree of human intelligence for advanced business applications. The purpose of this special issue is to provide a forum for researchers to report their recent discoveries on how to develop, deploy, apply, and assess business intelligence to achieve competitive advantages in enterprise and cross-enterprise settings.

There has been a recent surge of interest in business intelligence due to a number of reasons. First, there is a remarkable progress in cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning, autonomous computing, data mining, mobile agents, and collaborative computing. Second, there is a significant commercial deployment of intelligent applications such as recommendation systems, online auction services, customer relationship management, and intelligent product catalogues. Third, there is a dramatic increase of real-world data that is available for business analysis as found in data warehouses, internet web pages, and digital libraries.

This special issue consists of four fine articles, each of which provides a unique perspective to business intelligence. The first article was written by Ryan C. LaBrie and Robert D. St. Louis discussing their findings on the use of intelligent hierarchies to improve the effectiveness of information retrieval. The next article, written by Kevin R. Parker and Philip S. Nitse, proposes a new approach to gathering intelligent information for knowledge management systems. The third article by Dmitri Roussinov and José Antonio Robles-Flores presents a question and answer technique and its application in business intelligence. Finally, Rozlia Konkoly and Istvn Fekete describe their work on business risk analysis in price optimisation in the Hungarian telecommunications industry, incorporating game theory.

We hope that these four papers collectively give a glimpse of the field of business intelligence and provide a stepping stone towards broader and more in-depth efforts in this growing area of research.

Acknowledgment

The Guest Editors of the special issue on Product and process modelling in construction and related industries', Volume 3, Number 1, of the *International Journal of Internet and Enterprise Management* (IJIEM), would like to thank the editor in chief of IJIEM, Professor Eldon Y. Li, and all the authors who contributed to this special issue. To the authors whose papers were selected for this issue, we would like to show appreciation for their enthusiasm, commitment, and their endless cooperation.

The referee board of this special issue was composed of: Jun Xu, Ferenc Szidarovszky, David Schuff, Xingwen Wang, John Prescott, Joshua Zhexue Huang, Mick McQuaid, Praveen Pathak, Il Im, Kevin Parker, Graham Williams and Ryan C. LaBrie.