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Systems Analysis

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Preface

This book has been written with the aim of enabling the reader to attain a good working knowledge of the principles and practice of systems analysis. With the aid of *Self-Checks* and *Activities*, the book has been designed to serve those readers studying the subject on their own. Naturally, some interaction with persons experienced in the field can only be advantageous, and readers are encouraged – in the text – to relate studies wherever possible to the world around them.

The book owes its origins to a handbook on the subject written by the authors over twenty years ago. Advances in methods and technology have changed much of what was known as *systems analysis*, though the fundamental concept that improvements can always be achieved through a systematic approach is as valid today as it was then. Above all, systems analysis has become established as a core profession in the development of modern decision-making and information systems.

While systems analysis continues to be an exciting profession, the practitioner carries greater responsibilities than ever before. Large and small organisations alike depend on the quality of their information systems. This places a heavy burden on the systems analyst to understand the needs of the organisation and to deliver correspondingly effective and reliable information systems.

The only sure way consistently to perform to a high standard is to follow well-established guidelines, avoiding the mistakes of others and using proven techniques. In this book, the reader will find a comprehensive guide to systems analysis, drawing on the experience of the authors and others, but also opening doors for self-discovery – which lies at the heart of every healthy business discipline.

JOHN BINGHAM
GARTH DAVIES