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Business Process Modelling with ARIS: A Practical Guide

Rob Davis

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Rob Davis, BSc

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DEDICATION

For Dad

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Rob Davis

Foreword

1994 marks the year that the international version of ARIS Toolset - a software system capable of analysing, modelling and navigating business processes - was developed and released by the software and consulting company IDS Prof. Scheer GmbH in Saarbrücken, Germany (from 1999 known as IDS Scheer AG). By the end of 2000 an estimated 24,000 copies of this product will have been sold and installed worldwide, with many additional copies supplied to universities for teaching and research projects. The system's connectivity to existing integrated standard software products, such as System R/3 and mysap.com by SAP AG, is another factor that is expected to contribute to its fast dissemination worldwide.

The development of ARIS Toolset evolved from results which were obtained at the research institute "Institut für Wirtschaftsinformatik" (German for "Institute for Business Process Engineering"). The Institute has a staff of about 50 people and is based at the University of the Saarland. The history of ARIS Toolset is interesting because it demonstrates the benefits provided by a closely-knit mesh of research and product development. Creating such a mesh was only possible by founding IDS Scheer AG in parallel with acting as head of the research institute. Today, this software and consulting firm has a staff of more than 1600 people.

The development history of this product shows how theoretical concepts and experience gained from prototypes form a layer of knowledge which in turn enables us to develop new products in relatively short periods of time. It also shows how the results of research at university institutes, in the field of business process engineering, can lead to innovative and thus internationally successful products – provided that an organisational mesh with software companies can be established.

This excellent book written by Rob Davis is one further step towards establishing the idea of Business Process Modelling with ARIS in the international arena. Starting with an introduction, this book guides users of ARIS Toolset by presenting "best practice" basics and examples. In this way, the book quickly helps the reader to get involved in business process modelling practice by using the functionality of ARIS Toolset in a step-by-step way. Furthermore, using this book for teaching and research will help the reader to get in touch with modelling techniques and tools. I wish all readers the same pleasure I had reading this "cook book".

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. August-Wilhelm Scheer

*Director of the Institute for Information Systems (IW),
University of the Saarland,
Founder and Chairman of the supervisory board of
IDS Scheer AG, Saarbrücken.*

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