

Additional Resources for Instructors and Students

The two books offer different additional resources for instructors and students. The companion website of the Awad and Ghaziri text (<http://www.prenhall.com/awad/>) provides students and instructors with a set of downloadable PowerPoint slides. Instructors can also access instructor's manuals and test item files for the chapters. These resources can be of great help when an instructor prepares for the classes.

The Tiwana text comes with a companion CD which includes, among other items, a KM platform deployment case and a set of software tools. Judging from the date of the files, the case and the tools have not changed since 1999 when the first edition of the book was published. Nevertheless, a few software tools ran smoothly on my laptop with Windows XP Professional, even though they were designed for Win-

dows 98 or Windows NT, ancient platforms in computer years. Being able to demonstrate these software tools should be a huge plus for adopting the Tiwana text for undergraduate KM courses since undergraduate students in general respond much better to concrete and tangible systems/tools than abstract concepts.

Conclusions

The two textbooks differ from each other greatly, yet both seem valuable for teaching KM to undergraduate students, which makes the decision to choose one difficult. On one side, the Awad and Ghaziri text offers the familiar and comforting structure of a typical textbook. It is better written, easier to read and understand, but with less supporting materials and additional resources. It should be a good choice for courses that are geared more toward theoretical explorations. On the other hand, the

Tiwana text provides excellent practical value and complements the text with interesting software tools. It is also considerably cheaper, costing less than half of the Awad and Ghaziri text. Instructors who incorporate KM projects into their syllabi might find the Tiwana book more suitable for their courses. ■

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Attention International Empirical Researchers

Assessing global competitiveness of manufacturing supply chains through an international alliance of leading universities

The GMRG is an all inclusive group that provides cooperative research with scholars from around the world. We need additional data gatherers. The GMRG has been gathering data for almost 20 years with three previous versions of the questionnaire. The current fourth version of the questionnaire is GMRG 4.0.

The questionnaire is divided into separate modules: one required module and four optional that researchers choose according to their interests. The required module has 3 sections: 1) demographics (for sample control), 2) competitive goals (outcome variables), and 3) internal performance measures. All these sections are needed for researchers that wish to publish in top journals. There are four optional modules: (1) Manufacturing planning and control; (2) Purchasing; (3) Outsourcing (transaction cost analysis based); and (4) Forecasting. Each module was developed by a team of well-published scholars from around the world. Each optional module has a suggested model that directly ties to each question (and supporting literature). Currently, there are over 25 countries that have completed, are gathering, or will be gathering data. The questionnaire is sanctioned by APICS and CAPS. GMRG needs more USA and international data gatherers.

Data will be only shared with GMRG academic data gatherers that have gathered a representative sample. Any questions can be sent to Professors Chwen Sheu, Kansas State University (csheu@ksu.edu) or John G. Wacker (j.wacker@cox.net). The questionnaires may be viewed on the GMRG official web site: www.gmr.org

NAMES IN THE NEWS

CAROL LATTA, Executive Director, Decision Sciences Institute



James Bookbinder, University of Waterloo, was recently guest editor of a special issue (Vol. 41, No. 6, 2005) of *Transportation Research E* on "Global Logistics."

The special issue includes papers specifically about Europe and NAFTA, as well as articles that treat international logistics questions not confined to particular regions. For the past few years, Bookbinder has been working on various topics concerning International Supply Chains. These include a comparison of Logistics Systems in the European Community with those in Asia, as well as his ongoing research concerning NAFTA.

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Special issue: www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/13665545

(follow links to Vol. 41, no. 6)



William Tallon, Northern Illinois University, has accepted the position as dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business, Western Kentucky University. After

16 years as part of the faculty and administration of the NIU College of Business, he will assume the role of dean on July 1, 2006. "It's kind of bittersweet," says Tallon of leaving behind NIU. "I have spent so much of my life here and worked with so many wonderful people. On the other hand, the Gordon Ford College of Business is well positioned to become the premier provider of business education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and I am very proud of the opportunity to have a major role in leading the school to new levels of excellence."

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