Preface

Ever growing competition requires enterprises to aim at increasing the efficiency of their operations. Information technology (IT) is a key instrument to achieve this objective. However, for taking advantage of IT, it is not sufficient to focus on advanced technological infrastructures. Instead, it will usually be required to reorganize the operations, i.e. to redesign business processes and to re-arrange patterns of (collaborative) decision making with respect to the potential of advanced software systems. Respective developments that have been going on for several years now resulted in a remarkable penetration of organizations with software systems. For many employees software is not only the main tool for doing their work, it even becomes a reification of what they perceive as their relevant work surroundings. An increasing number of customers interact with companies mainly through web browsers, i.e. through software. As a consequence, the image they develop of a company is mainly shaped by software or, in other words: The software is the company. Only if software users are provided with representations of the software and the environment it operates in, it will be possible to empower them – especially if these representations enable them to modify the systems they use according to their needs. At the same time, more and more facets of the world are represented digitally, which produces a constantly growing amount of data. On the one hand, the growing data flood demands for innovate approaches to store and retrieve data. On the other hand, it creates the opportunity to support managerial decision making by developing advanced approaches to inductive data analysis.

The dominant influence that today’s software systems have on the operations and the representation of companies goes along with an ever increasing complexity of organizational and cross-organizational information systems. As a consequence, the development and management of organisational software systems create a serious challenge and require substantial investments. While the efficient development and use of software systems is already currently an exceedingly demanding and risky task, the future is likely to bring even more challenges. We are witnessing a transformation that is unprecedented in human history – a tremendous change process that has just begun. It threatens the existence of many organizations – and the jobs of millions. At the same time, it creates new opportunities by enabling new business models and promoting the emergence of new jobs. Against this background, it is essential for today’s companies to seek approaches that enable them to actively contribute to the digital transformation instead of suffering from it. To understand this transformation it is important to realize that advanced IT is a pivotal instrument. Therefore, innovative approaches to develop and manage flexible IT infrastructures are mandatory. At the same time, it is equally important to recognize that the change we expect is not restricted to the introduction of powerful software systems and fancy new gadgets. Instead, it is associated with the fundamental question of how we want to work and live tomorrow or, as Terry Winograd and Fernando Flores put it: “The transformation we are concerned with is not a technical one, but a continuing evolution of how we understand our surrounding and ourselves ... “.

It is obvious that the challenges related to today’s development and use of corporate information systems as well as to enabling a better future demands for scientific support. At the same time, it is also obvious that there is need for researchers in computer science and business informatics to closely collaborate. Only then it is possible to aim at IT systems that are tuned for innovative business models and tightly integrated with new patterns of (cross-) organizational collaboration. The conference series “Conference on Business Informatics” (CBI) is dedicated to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration to support the efficient construction of enterprise software systems and corresponding methods for organizational (re-) design, for strategic planning and for managerial decision making. For this purpose, it serves as a platform for researchers and practitioners from business informatics, computer science and related disciplines. CBI 2015, which took place in Lisbon, was divided into eight domains that cover a wide range of relevant topics. To emphasize the demand for cross-disciplinary collaboration, most domains were coordinated by one representative of business informatics and one of computer science. The domain Business Process Engineering was coordinated by Jan Mendling and Mathias Weske. Massimo Mecella and Manfred Reichert were responsible for the domain Business Systems Engineering. A further domain, which is dedicated to Business Models & Service Innovation was chaired by Eng Chew and Anne-Laure Mention. The domain Enterprise Engineering & Enterprise Architecture was represented by Florian Matthes and Antonia Albani. Jolita Ralyté and Robert Winter chaired the domain Method Engineering, while the domain Modelling in Business Informatics was
coordinated by Oscar Pastor and Steven Alter. Finally, Ralf Gitzel was in charge of fostering industrial relations by coordinating the domain Industrial Services.

The 30 papers included in this volume cover all of these domains. We would like to thank the authors, the domain coordinators, the members of the program committee and additional reviewers for their contribution and their commitment. We hope the readers will regard the collection as inspiring. It remains to mention that the reviewing process and the creation of the proceedings were supported by EasyChair.

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