

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING: ALEXIS LEON, BOOK REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

ERP has become necessity of the state of art. It offers wide organizational planning and supports strategic decision making also. There are plenty of books available on ERP, its requirement as well as implementation and this book review is on ERP. The author introduces Enterprise Resource Planning and the multiple techniques required for effective ERP operations which is the strength of the book. At the end of chapters, the author has given summary of the chapter. Review questions have been given in the form of short as well as descriptive answer-type questions, multiple choice questions, exercises, fill in the blanks etc. Reading this book can become a good reference for a novice user, computer professionals and trainee managers in terms of understanding the processing as well as requirement of various ERP concepts with their benefits and precautions.

Keywords: ERP; Book Review; E-Business; ERP-Implementation; IT-technologies

INTRODUCTION

ERP offers the promise of a smooth flow of information across an entire organization and a standardized environment with one information system that is, a shared database, independent of integrated applications while traditional non ERP limits communication across an organization due to its lack of integration. Different human resources, financial resources, products, customers and capital resources offer more promise than non-ERP information systems because these business processes are independent, yet integrated or interdependent which offer companies a competitive edge and reduces multiple data entries. ERP has fulfilled its promise in terms of planning. For most companies, it acts as a planning backbone for their core competencies by pulling together from across the company, the various processes through data.

Author of the Book

This book has been authored by Alexis Leon and published by Tata McGraw Hill Education Private Limited, New Delhi (India), Second Edition 2012, Pages 370 with ISBN (13):978-0-07-065680-2.

Contents Organization and Special Features

This book review is about second edition of Enterprise Resource Planning. This book provides a balanced and uniform coverage of basic standards regarding ERP and the numerous techniques essential for successful ERP operations.

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In this book evolution, implementation and advantages of Enterprise Resource Planning system has been explored. There are five divisions in this book- introduction, ERP market place and functional modules, ERP implementation, present and future of ERP, and Appendices.

The first part is all about introduction to Enterprise Resource Planning with its basic concepts like value creation approach towards ERP and importance of ERP. Light has also been thrown on the common myths about Enterprise Resource Planning, associated risk, intangible benefits of Enterprise Resource Planning as well as helping in justifying investments about Enterprise Resource Planning. The first part ends with specifying necessity towards ERP implementation for an organization. Also an introduction has been given about various technologies Like OLAP, PLM, SCM, CRM, GIS etc. related to ERP that are essential to improve the efficiency of Enterprise Resource Planning system. The author has also discussed computer crime and security with reference to ERP implementation.

The next part ERP marketplace and marketplace dynamics elucidates dynamics towards changed ERP marketplace with reference to the Indian scenario. An introduction has also been given about main modules involved in an ERP package with their functionality.

The third part deals with ERP implementation issues and enlightening from the beginning like what kind of packages should be selected for a company by highlighting all issues that crop up before, during and after the implementation, for example various transition strategies and implementation processes, organization of the ERP team, role of consultants, vendors and employees. It also discusses the factors by which success and failure of the ERP can be determined. This section ends with mentioning different operations involved in maintenance of ERP and how the power of ERP system can be extended or maximized.

The fourth part deals with the technological encroachment which thoroughly enlightens important factors to change the nature of today's ERP packages. This part illustrates clear picture of future direction and trends in ERP. It also discusses the role of ERP in e-Business, ERP-internet and WWW, new markets, new channels, easier customization tools with faster implementation methodologies, new business segments and need-based application platforms with reduced implementation time, open source, web-enabled and wireless technologies, integration of ERP applications and SOA factors etc.

At last appendices has been given where ERP as manufacturing perspective has been discussed. In these appendices success stories of various situation-based case studies has been given with the intension to provide the reader with an idea of benefits of implementing ERP. Appendices end by giving a detailed glossary as well as resources of ERP. Well organized index has also been given at the end.

SUMMARY

This book contains a host of pedagogical features to make learning more successful. This book covers most of the topics related with the ERP and provides comprehensive and state-of-the-art introduction towards the ERP technological concepts. The author has presented an articulated skeleton towards Enterprise Resource Planning and gradually and systematically introduced essential concepts and techniques for the significant topics. The inclusion of advanced concepts makes this book more significant. Each chapter of the book follows a narrative format and

therefore, the strength, criticism and application of approaches and concepts are dealt with assortment of practical experience. Some of the topics have been mentioned with a short introduction. This book is useful for undergraduate students, postgraduate students, trainee managers and can serve as a basic reference book for college courses as well as for professionals and readers for the purpose of learning and to increase their knowledge about latest ERP technological concepts.