E-Collaboration:
Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications

Ned Kock
Texas A&M International University, USA

Volume I

information Science
REFERENCE

INFORMATION SCIENCE REFERENCE
Hershey • New York

Contents

Volume I

Section I. Fundamental Concepts and Theories

This section serves as the foundation for this exhaustive reference tool by addressing crucial theories essential to the understanding of e-collaboration. Chapters found within these pages provide an excellent framework in which to position e-collaboration within the field of information science and technology. Individual contributions provide overviews of computer-mediated collaboration, communities of practice, and group decision support systems, while also exploring critical stumbling blocks of this field. Within this introductory section, the reader can learn and choose from a compendium of expert research on the elemental theories underscoring the research and application of e-collaboration.

Section II. Development and Design Methodologies

This section provides in-depth coverage of conceptual architectures, frameworks and methodologies related to the design and implementation of e-collaboration systems, tools, and technologies. Throughout these contributions, research fundamentals in the discipline are presented and discussed. From broad examinations to specific discussions on particular frameworks and infrastructures, the research found within this section spans the discipline while also offering detailed, specific discussions. Basic designs, as well as abstract developments, are explained within these chapters, and frameworks for designing successful virtual environments, information systems, and knowledge sharing communities are presented.

Section III. Tools and Technologies

This section presents extensive coverage of the technology that both derives from and informs e-collaboration. These chapters provide an in-depth analysis of the use and development of innumerable devices and tools, while also providing insight into new and upcoming technologies, theories, and instruments that will soon be commonplace. Within these rigorously researched chapters, readers are presented with examples of the tools that facilitate and support e-collaboration. In addition, the successful implementation and resulting impact of these various tools and technologies are discussed within this collection of chapters.

Section IV. Utilization and Application

This section introduces and discusses the ways in which e-collaboration systems, tools, and technologies have been utilized and also propose new ways in which e-collaboration innovations can be implemented within organizations and in society as a whole. These particular selections highlight, among other topics, utilizing e-collaboration for knowledge management, e-collaboration for social health outcomes, and decision support for crisis management. Contributions included in this section provide excellent coverage of today's electronic environment and insight into how e-collaboration impacts the fabric of our present-day global village.

Section VII. Critical Issues

This section addresses conceptual and theoretical issues related to the field of e-collaboration, which include issues relating to both trust and security. Within these chapters, the reader is presented with analysis of the most current and relevant conceptual inquires within this growing field of study. Particular chapters also address melacommunication in computer-mediated communication, spam, and the factors promoting collaborative learning in web-based education. Overall, contributions within this section ask unique, often theoretical questions related to the study of e-collaboration and, more often than not, conclude that solutions are both numerous and contradictory.

Section VIII. Emerging Trends

This section highlights research potential within the field of e-collaboration while exploring uncharted areas of study for the advancement of the discipline. Chapters within this section highlight evolutions in online communities, nethnography and its role in online interaction, and new models and concepts for online education. These contributions, which conclude this exhaustive, multi-volume set, provide emerging trends and suggestions for future research within this rapidly expanding discipline.