

# Editorial

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In step with the new demands on businesses for better results, demands on their uses of information and information technology will change considerably. Ever increasing amounts of information require more from identification, selection, storage and retrieval of important and strategic information. In the future, it will be even more important to focus on the value of the use of information in a highly competitive situation for business and industry.

From the point of view of information as a value-added factor in industry, a systemized access and use of information has a number of advantages. From this perspective, we must consider information itself as an organizational resource similar to other resources such as capital, machines and technology as well as labor force.

This was the basic idea behind the pre-conference on "Information as a Strategic Tool to Improve Industrial Competitiveness", convened by the International Federation for Information and Documentation, Information for Industry Committee (FID/II) and held at the Helsinki University of Technology, Espoo, during the 44th FID Congress and Conference in August 1988.

The conference was an important milestone for FID/II; it was the first FID/II committee conference ever to feature business information as a topic directed equally to industry leaders and information professionals. The goal of the conference, and thus of this special issue, was to highlight and present excellent examples of information exchange and information use, and to explore its role in improving industrial competitiveness.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all contributors at the conference for their excellent presentations and their willingness to present their papers in writing and making this special issue possible.