

THE NEW MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

Information Systems for Improved Performance

Edited by
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CROOM HELM
London ● New York ● Sydney

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Preface

This volume examines the challenge to management which is posed by ever more sophisticated applications of information technology. It reports on cases of actual practice, and seeks to draw lessons from these experiences which will be of practical value to managers and their advisers.

The book had its origin in a workshop held in September 1986 at the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management, Brussels. This attracted 18 papers and the quality of the papers was such that we felt it worthwhile to make a careful selection of them more widely available. Nine of the conference papers have been selected for inclusion, one specially written paper has been added, and the editors have written an opening and a concluding chapter. So although the book is based on a conference, it is not merely a reprint of the conference proceedings.

We expect the book will appeal particularly to those whose job is to advise and support line managers in the introduction of information technology projects. These may be either internal or external consultants, perhaps with a computing or systems background, or they may be people from a line function who have the job of implementing a major technical change successfully. The book will also be a useful source of ideas, experience and examples to teachers in both further and higher education, and in business schools and management colleges.

Our thanks are due to the contributors to this volume, who co-operated so willingly in meeting the timetable we established. We are especially grateful to Nan Gray, our secretary. She has maintained an efficient and cheerful link with the many contributors, both during the preparations for the conference, and in the production of this book.

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