

BOOK REVIEW

on

HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON WEB 2.0, 3.0, and X.0: TECHNOLOGIES, BUSINESS, AND SOCIAL APPLICATIONS

San Murugesan (editor)

Information Science Reference, New York, 2010

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This two-volume set is a *tour de force* illustrating the breadth of impact of Web technology and thereby substantiates a need for the analytical framework found in Web Engineering. The editor has brought together an outstanding collection of research works in diverse disciplines reflecting a current multi-dimensional view of the Web. While some of its chapters are likely to appeal more to technologists (e.g., Web Architecture) they are balanced by others that are more pedagogical and application-oriented (e.g., Educational Applications, Healthcare, Social Web). It is easy to get a feeling of awe while scanning through the books (no one is likely to read them cover-to-cover) with respect to the areas of modern society affected by the Web.

An obvious problem with a series of this type is its longevity and its period of relevancy. Current “hot” topics such as Linked Open Data (LOD) and e-Government are minimally addressed. The “Mobile Web” appears only in a discussion about business architecture. Established issues such as security and privacy appear only in context and have, apparently, not warranted dedicated chapters. “Web Science” is not mentioned at all. Research and development in these areas (and others) are likely to be major drivers of so-called Web 3.0 and X.0. They should have been included if the editor were to satisfactorily meet the goals stated in the series preface, “We believe the handbook provides valuable insights for further research on new generation Web technologies, applications, and social issues. We hope this book fulfills its major objective of being an excellent resource for researchers, academics, and professionals seeking to explore the issues and emerging trends in Web and Web-based applications.” The price of this book suggests an investment in the future, perhaps for well-funded research groups but unlikely for students, which has only been partially delivered.

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