Foreword

Between 1980 and early 1990s Larry English, well-known professional and researcher in data quality and governance, labelled as "Father of Information Quality," developed the Total Information Quality (TIQM) system adopting preliminary concepts from predecessors in the field. Larry's work inspired the development of *infonomics* that has been applied to organizations worldwide. The conceptual framework laid by Larry English is based on the understanding that data is valuable and plays a critical role in businesses and the decision-making processes. He advocated for the systematic approach to address issues with data inaccuracies, inconsistencies, quality, factors identified as critical in the improvement of governance of organizational data assets. In an era defined by the incessant flow of information, mastering its legal landscape has become imperative for organizations striving for longevity and prosperity. *Creating and Sustaining an Information Governance Program* serves as a beacon in this tumultuous universe, offering a comprehensive roadmap to comprehend and leverage the intricate interplay between information governance, knowledge production and use, and the legal realm.

Dr Helge executed an exceptional job with the organization of this anthology which comprises sixteen meticulously crafted chapters, each a cornerstone in the edifice of modern information management. At its core, this book acknowledges the pressing need to navigate the legal intricacies of information governance, making it not only relevant but indispensable in today's data-driven economy.

One chapter lays the foundation, dissecting the legal landscape of information governance with precision and clarity. In an era where regulatory compliance is non-negotiable, understanding frameworks like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is paramount for businesses worldwide. This chapter not only provides strategic insights but also equips organizations to proactively address legal challenges in an increasingly digitized world.

As businesses grapple with the implications of social media engagement, another chapter emerges as a guiding light, offering a nuanced analysis of user behavior on platforms like Twitter. In an age where public perception can make or break an organization, deciphering sentiment and patterns in user interactions with entities like law enforcement agencies is invaluable for reputation management and strategic decision-making, as well as community engagement, safety, and growth.

The significance of spatial data infrastructure (SDI) in information governance cannot be overstated, as elucidated in one chapter in this book. Drawing from a real-world case study in Pakistan, this chapter underscores the transformative potential of effective spatial data management in bolstering governance frameworks. In an era characterized by data-driven decision-making, the insights gleaned from this chapter are indispensable for organizations across sectors grappling with the challenges of data governance and spatial data management.

Academic libraries, often the custodians of vast repositories of information, occupy a unique position in the information ecosystem. A chapter delves into the challenges and opportunities of implementing information governance frameworks within these institutions. As bastions of knowledge dissemination, academic libraries play a pivotal role in shaping the information landscape of tomorrow, making this chapter essential reading for librarians, educators, and policymakers alike.

Privacy of information and data has emerged as a burning issue in contemporary discourse, as expounded in a chapter. With the proliferation of technologies like big data and artificial intelligence, safeguarding individual and institutional privacy has become imperative. This chapter not only examines existing privacy frameworks but also offers innovative solutions to navigate the ever-evolving privacy landscape, making it indispensable for businesses and policymakers seeking to strike a balance between innovation and privacy rights.

An additional chapter conveys how executive sponsorship and organizational alignment are discussed as crucial components of any successful information governance program, particularly in an era characterized by rapid technological change and organizational flux, securing buy-in from senior leadership is essential for the sustainability and effectiveness of governance initiatives. This chapter provides invaluable insights into garnering support and fostering a culture of governance across organizational hierarchies, making it essential reading for executives and governance practitioners alike.

The role of information security in the modern era cannot be overstated, as articulated in the book. In an environment rife with cyber threats and data breaches, safeguarding valuable information assets is imperative for organizational resilience and survival. This chapter not only delves into the intricacies of information security but also offers actionable strategies to mitigate risks and enhance security posture, making it indispensable for businesses seeking to fortify their defenses against cyber threats.

Quality management principles, long heralded in manufacturing and healthcare sectors, find resonance in the realm of information governance, as expounded in this book. Drawing from the best practices of quality gurus, this chapter offers a holistic perspective on integrating quality management principles into governance frameworks. As businesses increasingly rely on data-driven insights to inform decision-making, the insights gleaned from this chapter are invaluable for organizations seeking to optimize their operations and enhance service delivery.

The "right to be forgotten" has emerged as a contentious issue in the era of digital proliferation, as dissected within. From the landmark Google Spain lawsuit to the complexities of compliance with regulations like the GDPR, this chapter navigates the intricate terrain of privacy rights and freedom of expression in the digital age. As businesses grapple with the implications of data retention and deletion, the insights gleaned from this chapter are indispensable for navigating the delicate balance between privacy rights and technological innovation.

Decentralized data technologies, epitomized by distributed ledger technology (DLT), hold immense promise in revolutionizing information governance, as discussed in this text. Yet, the tension between privacy rights and the immutable nature of DLT poses unique challenges for governance practitioners. This chapter offers a nuanced exploration of this tension, offering insights into reconciling privacy concerns with the transformative potential of decentralized data technologies.

At the intersection of information governance and organizational functionality lies the promise of strategic alignment, as elucidated in the text. From optimizing business operations to refining data management practices, this chapter offers actionable insights into leveraging information governance as a strategic asset. In an era defined by data-driven decision-making, the insights gleaned from this chapter are indispensable for organizations seeking to harness the full potential of their information assets.

Finally, this anthology underscores the indispensable role of organizational culture in sustaining information governance initiatives. From fostering a culture of transparency and accountability to nurturing leadership capabilities, this chapter offers a roadmap for building a resilient governance framework. As organizations grapple with the challenges of digital transformation, the insights gleaned from this chapter are essential for fostering a culture of governance that permeates every facet of organizational life.

In summation, *Creating and Sustaining an Information Governance Program* transcends the boundaries of traditional discourse. Dr Helge offers a holistic perspective on the intersection of information governance and the legal, technological, and organizational realms throughout this book. Whether you are a seasoned practitioner, a budding researcher, or a curious enthusiast, this book is an indispensable companion in navigating the complexities of modern information management. Dive in, explore, and embark on a journey towards creating a resilient and sustainable information governance program that stands the test of time, and the most complex technological advances, such as Artificial Intelligence, AI.

Tereza Raquel Merlo
University of North Texas, USA & Merlo Management Consulting, USA