A View on the Management of Public Information Technology

Sorin Dan ŞANDOR

Information technology is, especially in the last two decades, a hot topic, many books on this subject appearing each year. Most of them, from the point of view of the Public Administration, have a weakness by addressing either the business sector, or a narrow topic. This is not the case for the recent book of G. David Garson, Public Information Technology: Policy and Management Issues.

Several authors, both academics and practitioners, did join their effort to present a view on the management of Public Information Technology. Several IT-related problems are presented, grouped in two sections: MANAGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, which address more general management, policy and administrative issues, and COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, talks about specific applications and skills needed in order to handle properly IT in the public sector.

The fourteen chapter of the book deal about important issues like the impact of IT over public administration (as theory and practice), digital government and e-government, information access and privacy, technological change, IT research, Geographical Information Systems, etc.

While some chapters do focus on American experiences (interesting enough for international readers), others do provide ideas, information and solutions valid in almost every environment.

Due to the variety and complexity of the problems approached, the book is a “survey of many of the most important dimensions of managing information technology in the public sector”, a much needed one for newcomers in the field, either students in Public Administration or Government employees. (S.D.S.)