BUSINESS INFORMATICS

16

PRACE NAUKOWE
UNIWERSYTETU EKONOMICZNEGO
WE WROCŁAWIU
nr 104

RESEARCH PAPERS
OF WROCŁAW UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS
No. 104

BUSINESS INFORMATICS

16

Data Mining and Business Intelligence

edited by
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Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics
Wrocław 2010

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Wrocław 2010

ISSN 1899-3192
ISSN 1507-3858

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Preface

Data Mining and *Business Intelligence* currently belong to the most active branches of business informatics. Today a Google search for these two highly intersecting themes, returns over 24 million pages for the first term, and over 38 million for the second. Just to remind us of their respective definitions, *Data Mining* is understood as a process of extracting novel, hidden, or useful knowledge from large databases, whilst *Business Intelligence* is a less precisely defined domain, but most authors underline the key aspects of business intelligence as: support of business decision making; advanced data analysis; data warehouses and OLAP technology.

The purpose of this particular edition is to present the research results to system analysts and developers rather than theoreticians. This volume covers a broad selection of data mining methods and business intelligence, ranging from theoretical works to business applications. It presents original research papers on architectures and interfaces of business intelligence systems, OLAP technology, the interpretability of classifiers, financial time series, Web applications, user behavior modeling, and AI methods in information systems.

This special issue is the first volume on data mining and business intelligence produced by the Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics, Poland. The majority of papers are submitted by leading Polish research laboratories. In addition four papers have been authored by foreign researchers; two from France, one from the United Kingdom and one from Spain. I am particularly happy to publish research works submitted by young researchers and PhD students from Wrocław University of Economics.

I believe that this special issue will be of great value not only to practitioners but also to researchers in management information systems and advanced AI applications. The results presented demonstrate the high utility potential of the methods of data mining and business intelligence in decision making and business driven applications.

The editorial supervision resulting in this volume was carried out by the Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics, and was supported by the research funds of the University. I cordially thank all people involved in its preparation, in particular the authors of the papers, the reviewers, the members of the Editorial Board.

Wrocław, January 2010

Jerzy Korczak