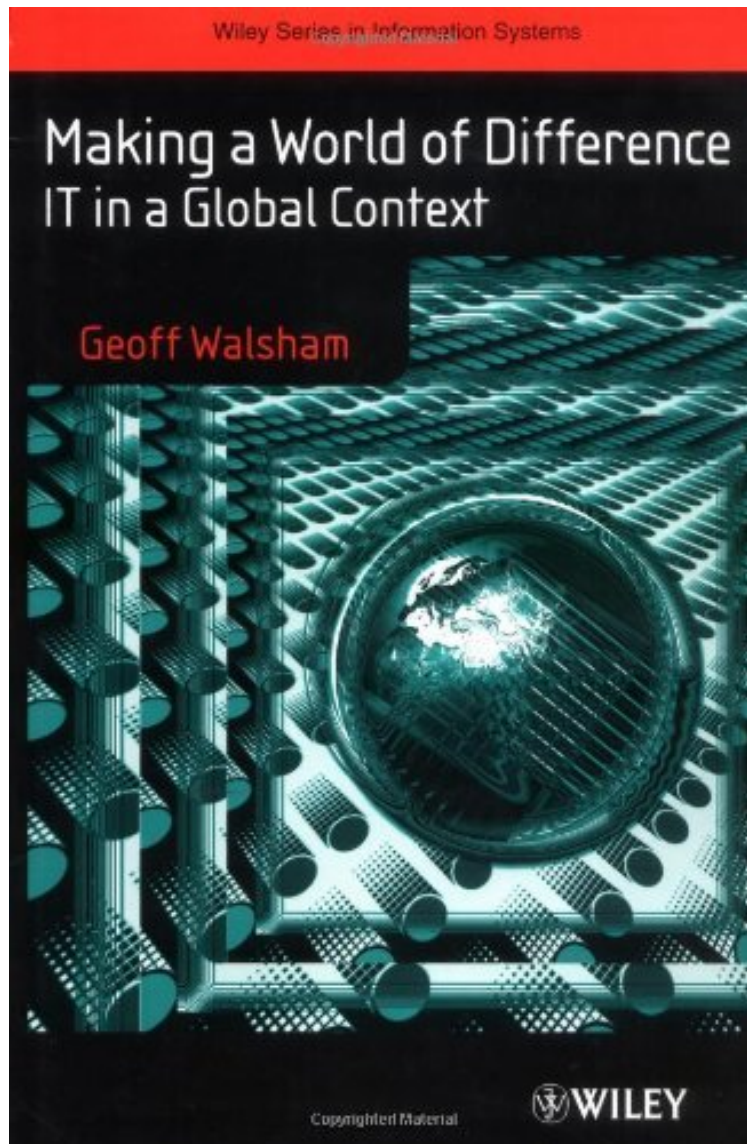


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## Making a World of Difference: IT in a Global Context

*Geoff Walsham*

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**Geoff Walsham : Making a World of Difference: IT in a Global Context** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making a World of Difference: IT in a Global Context:

Information Technology has become an essential component of contemporary society, allowing much faster and more widespread communication, not least through the growth of the Internet. However, many issues concerned with the human aspects of the use of IT remain problematic despite technological advances. An enhanced ability to collect and

process data, or to communicate electronically across time and space, does not necessarily lead to improved human communication and action. This book explores the social aspects of computerisation, using a wide range of detailed case studies, analysed from a variety of conceptual viewpoints. A further distinctive feature of the book is that it draws on empirical material from across the world as a whole, including non-Western countries. It is argued that we should be using IT to support a world in which diversity and difference are respected. Synopsis Making a World of Difference provides a context for the whole debate about the relationship of people and computers. It looks at the role of IS/IT in a modern society and the way it impacts on people, companies, economics etc. Prof. Walsham readily acknowledges that this environment is rapidly changing and that it is therefore important not to focus too closely on current technologies or one particular system of thought, but consider them as one of many other alternatives. It is structured to be of use for academics and business audience - Part 1 is holistic and reflexive, while Parts 2 and 3 are written for the busy manager who can consider the key issues independently.

"... an extremely stimulating, thoughtful, and engaging contribution ..." (Scandinavian Journal of Management, Vol.18 2002) "hellip;considerable strengthhellip;main value if the book lies in the numerous and wide-ranging case studieshellip;" (Organization Studies, Vol.24, No.2.) "hellip;a rich source of inspiration for further studieshellip;" (Knowledge Management, July 2003) From the Inside Flap Richly illustrated with vivid and detailed case studies, this book addresses many of the issues that are critical if information systems are to be an effective part of a global business environment. \* In Part One, the author focuses on theoretical views of the contemporary world, with a particular emphasis on the role of information and communication technologies. This part includes theories of globalization, and more micro-level theories on knowledge, the role of information technology, improvisation in work practice, and power and politics. \* Part Two presents in-depth case material at different levels of analysis: personal and professional identity; the work of groups or teams; organizational connectivity and restructuring; and inter-organizational networking. It draws on theory from Part One for analytical purposes. \* Part Three has a similar goal to Part Two, but with a specific emphasis on non-Western cultures. \* Some overall conclusions are summarized in Part Four. Making a World of Difference will be of specific interest to students on graduate courses in management information systems, computer science and management studies. It will also be of value to information systems practitioners and managers concerned with the development and use of IT. From the Back Cover Information technology has become an essential component of contemporary society, allowing much faster and more widespread communication, not least through the growth of the internet. However, many issues concerned with the human aspects of the use of IT remain problematic despite technological advances. An enhanced ability to collect and process data, or to communicate electronically across time and space, does not necessarily lead to improved human communication and action. This book explores the social aspects of computerization, using a wide range of detailed case studies, analysed from a variety of conceptual viewpoints. A further distinctive feature of the book is that it draws empirical material from across the world as a whole, including non-Western countries. It is argued that we should be using IT to support a world in which diversity and difference are respected.