complexities of remote monitoring and telemetry and include the requirements of emergency vehicles, operating rooms, and intensive care units.

The world of biomedical engineering includes biomechanics, prosthetic devices and artificial organs, medical imaging, biomaterials, biotechnology, tissue engineering, neural engineering, biomedical instrumentation, bionano-technology, physiological modeling, rehabilitation engineering, medical and bioinformatics, clinical engineering, biosensors, and medical and biological analysis.

The purpose of the second edition of this volume in the *Academic Press Series in Biomedical Engineering* remains the same as the first edition: to serve as an introduction to an overview of the field of biomedical engineering. The textbook provides a historical perspective of the major developments in specific biomedical domains as well as the fundamental principles underlying biomedical engineering design, analysis, and modeling procedures in those domains.

The editors and authors provide the most thorough review of concepts from biomaterials and tissue engineering to bioinstrumentation and medical imaging.

The material in this textbook is presented in the following 17 chapters: "Biomedical Engineering: A Historical Perspective"; "Moral and Ethical Issues"; "Anatomy and Physiology"; "Biomechanics"; "Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology"; "Biomaterials"; "Tissue Engineering"; "Bioinstrumentation"; "Biomedical Sensors"; "Biosignal Processing"; "Bioelectric Phenomena"; "Physiological Modeling"; "Genomics and Bioinformatics"; "Computational Cell Biology and Complexity"; "Radiation Imaging"; "Medical Imaging"; and "Biomedical Optics and Lasers."

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Usability and Internationalization of Information Technology

Edited by Nuray Akin, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2004. ISBN: 0805844791, 366 pages, US$40.00.

Our society is becoming increasingly reliant on information technology (IT) because of the simple truth that it has introduced freedom, worldwide connectedness, and loss of remoteness. From finding a subway map of Prague for vacation, a romantic restaurant in Paris, or a nightclub in Las Vegas to locating the best buys for books, movie tickets, mortgages, or cowboy boots, many of us find that the use of IT is a supremely valuable enhancement to the quality of our lives. Ensuring that IT is effectively utilized across culturo-continental boundaries is the prime focus of Akin's *Usability and Internationalization of Information Technology*. Developed in the spirit of *Human Factors and Ergonomics* (series editor: Gavriel Salvendy), this volume is part of a larger series dedicated to topics on interacting with our "information society."

Our initial reaction was how such an incredibly broad topic could be dutifully covered in a medium-sized paperback (366 pages cover to cover). The book's three sections comprise 11 chapters authored by foremost practitioners from the United States, Europe, and Asia. The focus ranges across guidelines and practices for internationalization and localization, cultural consideration and guidelines in the design of IT, usability evaluation methodology and cost-benefit analysis for cross-cultural design and concludes with a few case studies. While the series and text editors do not claim to have included all the answers, they, in collaboration with the contributing authors, have done an impressively thorough job in either addressing the most pressing internationalization questions or offering resources where the unanswered questions may be further researched.

Indeed, one of the greatest strengths of this book is the breadth of what is covered, and by selecting some of the leaders in the field as authors, the editors have provided the necessary authority to the writing, even if styles change from chapter to chapter. Certainly readable, this volume may best serve as an invaluable reference tool to any who wish to gracefully convey topics of interest beyond the borders of their home countries and cultures. As the cover image (an inverted globe) suggests, the challenge of internationalized commerce and the ever-increasing diversity of the workplace is turning cultural biases and misconceptions on their ear. It is imperative for aspiring and established enterprises in need of an international portal to take heed of the numerous communication issues addressed in this volume.

Of course, there are some inconsistencies and some omissions. Why, for example, is the important issue of health information transmission in our modern biomedical era never mentioned? International health IT is significant for tracking public health threats/problems, enhancing the quality of medical care, and even reducing a substantial amount of our healthcare expenditures. In addition to the aforementioned major problem, the text is rife with typeface, spelling, and grammatical bloopers that are difficult to ignore. Additionally, we have a gripe about the quality of the figures. We increasingly depend on visual images in order to learn; yet the book is packed with rather dull black-and-white illustrations and some relataively substandard hand drawings.

While certainly not the final stop for all aspects of information transfer, this quick and easy romp in the field of human factors and social interaction will guide the reader through varied topics such as interface design and cultural issues, financial and legalistic concerns, and justification and validation. As an overall package, this volume is an opportune rendition to the engineering and IT community by the contributors. The most important question, however, is whether we would buy this book. The answer is yes!

—Diana Anderson and
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