

8

classical economic sense;

In both cases we therefore come to the crucial point we propose to investigate within the research study scheduled: how to define a generalised value of information? (Research item I)

In addition to that

c) information technology has to be judged either within the context of so called alignment -oriented application to business (where standard software packages support MIS bodies, for example) or within the impact oriented application (like tailor-made software is applied to prototypes of MIS projects). In order to compare the two of them, after transformations as applied in a) above, we see that a unified approach to information evaluation is needed (Research item II).

d) Following the ROI principle evolution, we finally get stuck as to the task of summing up the evaluations of all the components of extended ROI components which in general are not allowed to be aggregable or, at least, co-measurable without limitations. Furthermore, such a sum, in turn, is very unlikely to act as a "means of ranking alternative information system projects" (see Parker and Benson as well). This arguing brings us to Research item III: how to construct an acceptable and efficient information evaluation algebra?

e) as a dual to d) we have to find some generalised cost attributes to any information (which, in turn, enables us to afford a generalised cost description of information process as well as information system), since recent development tends to involve different classes of risk and uncertainty as "full dimension of cost" categories (see Parker and Benson again) as ontological counterparts to "values". This phenomenon is a challenge to us to formulate Research item IV: to put information evaluation algebra into a multidimensional space.

From the four research tasks formulated above we could derive ~~some~~ a unified approach information evaluation in such a way that

- different investment programs for a given information systems are unambiguously comparable,
- the impact a given information system has or may have on a particular business system is described in the same space as the information system itself,
- the two systems introduced, e. i. business system and its satellite information system (as well as management information system) have \times conform performance "identification" card,
- an information system can be treated within the same (informational) space as its "master" system, e. i. business system.