15. Getting yet more Information

The only Zen you find
on the tops of mountains
is the Zen you bring up there.
Robert Pirsig

15.1. Access to Information Beyond this Book

Software measurement is not easy. Many measurement programs fail to deliver actual performance improvements – for numerous reasons, as we showed in this book. You might have further questions on software measurement that go beyond the book or request specific insight.

The first thing to do is contact our Internet-site that had been established for the book: http://metrics.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/ Aside that you can contact the authors who both are very active in measurement consulting. Both have helped numerous companies around the world to establish and use software measurements.

This chapter will provide further resources, both in print and Internet media. We start with some books on software measurement that detail specific aspects which are covered in this book.

To help with introduction, to ensure useful international standards, and to guide with benchmarking and consulting, there exist many software measurement communities across the world. We provide a selection of those communities with which we have cooperated and thus gained insight in the previous years. The list is far from being complete and we apologize for this obviously subjective selection. All mentioned communities are internationally active and publish on their English Internet Web sites. The authors appreciate update proposals which we will include in the Web page of this book and also the next edition (see Chap. 1). The selection is sorted alphabetically.

Obviously, any such listing is incomplete. On the other hand, it would be of not much help to readers if the list grows to a size that is impossible to process and that has tons of invalid links. Therefore, we tried to cover those where the authors have direct access and know about the activity and its value.

All URLs in this chapter have been checked for validity and appropriateness on 25. December 2006. We invite those that detect gaps or errors to send a short mail to the lead author (mailto: christofebert@ieee.org) in order to keep the list updated for next edition.

All these references (and much more) are also electronically accessible from this book’s homepage at: http://metrics.cs.uni-magdeburg.de/.
15.2. Further Reading

No single book is able to cope with all needs of a heterogeneous and international readership. We therefore recommend a few other books which highlight specific topics that might be interesting to some of you:

- Norman Fenton [Fent97] has written the classic textbook on software measurement. It can serve as an introduction providing the mathematical and statistical background of software measurement.
- ISO 15939 [ISO02a] is the international standard for software measurement and should not be missing on any bookshelf in our domain.
- John McGarry et al [McGa01] explain the usage of this ISO 15939 standard in practical terms with several insightful examples.
- Bob Grady [Grad92] in his case-oriented textbook summarizes what HP did in terms of practical software measurement with focus on managing projects.
- Steve McConnell [McCo98] has tons of insight on how to make your software projects a success. We highly recommend it.
- Mary Beth Chrissis et al [Chri06] edited the baseline of the CMMI and precisely elaborate what it demands to systematically improve your processes.
- Capers Jones [Jone01], though a little bit dated, provides a huge set of experience data that you can relate to your own measurements to have some initial benchmarking. It is still a major data reference.
- Rini Van Solingen [VanS00] has eloquently summarized what GQM stands for and how to use it in practice.
- Horst Zuse [Zuse98] provides solid expert materials on the scientific background of software measurement. We recommend it for those who want to engage in empirical research.

15.3. Measurement Communities

CMG
The Computer Measurement Group (CMG) is a globally acting non-profit organization of data processing professionals committed to the measurement and management of computer systems (hardware and software). CMG members are concerned with performance evaluation of existing systems to improve performance (e.g., response time, throughput, and so on) and with capacity management. National chapters of the CMG are active in Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany (as CECMG), Italy, South Africa, the UK (as UKCMG) and the USA. Its home page is http://www.cmg.org/.

COSMIC
The Common Software Measurement International Consortium (COSMIC) was founded in late 1998 by a group of experienced software measurers from industry and science with the aim to design and promote the second generation of software