Preface

Nearly 20 years after the first scholarly publication in book format on the subject of systems for planning support (Brail and Klosterman 2001), this *Handbook of Planning Support Science* presents a new generation of innovative applications of information and communication technologies, involving big/open data, applied modelling, geodesign, smart city instruments and planning support systems. These applications relate to a range of contemporary challenges that planners and policy-makers encounter in different planning contexts. The explosion of data and the proliferation of new digital technologies since the turn of the twenty-first century, together with the development of new support systems and the associated engagement of stakeholders in many cases, means that we can now refer to these components collectively as constituting planning support science; as editors, we felt that the time was right to produce a *Handbook* in recognition of this maturation.

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REFERENCE

Brail, R.K. and Klosterman, R.E. (eds) (2001), *Planning Support Systems: Integrating Geographic Information Systems, Models, and Visualization Tools*, Redlands, CA: Esri Press.