

Handbook of Human Factors and Ergonomics, 5th Edition

Edited by

Gavriel Salvendy and Waldemar Karwowski

FOREWORD

Review of the fourth edition and comment on the fifth edition by Donald A. Norman, Director and Co-Founder, University of California, San Diego Design Lab.

This review was written by me for my Website (www.jnd.org): hence the informal writing style. Although it is not in the format I would have provided had I done a normal foreword for this Handbook. I have given permission to reprint it here. I could write it more substantively, with more words and deeper analysis, but the message would stay the same: This is an essential book for professionals and students alike. Maybe the message is even stronger in this shorter, less formal format.

I'm often asked for reading suggestions, especially for references to the literature on Human Factors and Ergonomics. In the past few months, I have been reading chapters of one book that has it all: Gavriel Salvendy's massive tome, the *Handbook of Human Factors and Ergonomics*. It is huge, with over 1,500 pages and 61 chapters. It takes 2 pages just to list the advisors, 10 pages to list the authors of the chapters. It is also expensive: \$250.

Buy it. The articles are all excellent. They all reflect up-to-date reviews of the areas they cover. They are wonderful self-study material, wonderful references, and would make excellent material in multiple courses. Yes, it is obscenely expensive, but this one book is the equivalent of 10 normal books. Consider it as essential piece of professional equipment. Buy it. Use it.

If you don't know human factors, this is a great way to find the parts relevant to your work. And even if you are an expert, this book will be valuable because it is unlikely that you are expert at all the topics covered here, yet very likely you will need some of the ones you are not (yet) expert at. I follow my own advice. I consider myself an expert (I am a Fellow of the Human Factors Society), but I still learn each time I read from these pages. So, yes, grit your teeth and buy the book.

The 5th edition has new – and very important – chapters written by the authorities in each topic. It has kept up with the times and become even more valuable as both a text and a reference.

Review of the fifth edition by Thomas B. Sheridan, Ford Professor Emeritus of Engineering and Applied Psychology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The fifth edition of the Handbook of Human Factors and Ergonomics is the most authoritative and comprehensive reference work in the field.

From the Foreword to the second edition by John F. Smith, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President, General Motors Corporation

The publication of this second *Handbook of Human Factors and Ergonomics* is very timely. It is a comprehensive guide that contains practical knowledge and technical background on virtually all aspects of physical, cognitive, and social ergonomics. As such, it can be a valuable source of information for any individual or organization committed to providing competitive, high-quality products and safe, productive work environments.

From the Foreword to the first edition by E. M. Estes, Retired President, General Motors Corporation

Regardless of what phase of the economy a person is involved in, this handbook is a very useful tool. Every area of human factors from environmental conditions and motivation to the use of new communications systems, robotics, and business systems is well covered in the handbook by experts in every field.