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A THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE, AND MANAGEMENT (IJIKM)

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ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose	This study investigates the research profile of the papers published in Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management (IJIKM) to provide silhouette information of the journal for the editorial team, researchers, and the audience of the journal.
Background	Information and knowledge management is an interdisciplinary subject. IJIKM defines intersections of multiple disciplinary research communities for the interdisciplinary subject.
Methodology	A quantitative study of categorical content analysis was used for a thematic analysis of IJIKM. One hundred fifty nine (159) papers published since the inauguration of the journal in 2006 were coded and analyzed.
Contribution	The study provides synopsized information about the interdisciplinary research profile of IJIKM, and adds value to the literature of information and knowledge management.
Findings	The analysis reveals that IJIKM disseminates research papers with a wide range of research themes. Among the research themes, Organizational issues of knowledge/information management, Knowledge management systems/tools, Information/knowledge sharing, Technology for knowledge/information management, Information/knowledge application represent the five main research streams of IJIKM. The total number of papers on organizational issues of knowledge/information management increased from 16% to 28% during the past

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	6 years. Statistical method was the most common research methodology, and summarization was the most common research design applied in the papers of IJIKM. The paper also presents other patterns of participant countries, keywords frequencies, and reference citations.
Recommendations for Practitioners	Innovation is the key to information and knowledge management. Practitioners of information and knowledge management can share best practices with external sectors.
Recommendations for Researchers	Researchers can identify opportunities of cross-disciplinary research projects that involve experts in business, education, government, healthcare, technology, and psychology to advance knowledge in information and knowledge management.
Impact on Society	Information and knowledge management is still a developing field, and readers of this paper can gain more understanding of the dissemination of the literature of information and knowledge management involved in all relevant disciplines.
Future Research	A longitudinal study could follow up in the future to provide updated and comparative information of the research profile of the journal.
Keywords	Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management, IJIKM, research profile, content analysis, thematic analysis

INTRODUCTION

Interdisciplinary Journal of Information, Knowledge, and Management (IJIKM) is an internationally recognized peer-reviewed academic journal that fosters the dissemination of ideas and research findings related to information and knowledge management (SJR, 2018). During the past decade, IJIKM has evolved into one of the premier referred open access interdisciplinary journals of Informing Science Institute (ISI, 2018), a large research community. There is a need to mirror its interdisciplinary aspects to understand and to interpret the new dynamics of Information Science Institute.

Interdisciplinarity has become a widespread term for research, accompanied by a growing number of publications; however, review and evaluation of interdisciplinary studies are often underemphasized (Klein, 2008). Review and evaluation of interdisciplinary studies would recognize the variability of goals of individual disciplines, advance integration and interaction of social and cognitive factors in collaboration, and develop measures of effectiveness and impact (Wagner et al., 2011).

The purpose of this study is to discover the topical themes of information and knowledge management discussed by diversified disciplines and the research methodologies and research designs used in the studies. The study examines the recent research profile of IJIKM. It is guided by two main research questions: (1) what topical research themes are prominent in the interdisciplinary journal? (2) what research methodologies and research designs are used in the papers of the journal? The analysts of the study have reviewed all papers in IJIKM published since the inauguration of the journal in 2006 and conducted a thematic analysis of these papers to address the two main research questions. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The next section is a literature review that provides background information of interdisciplinary research, interdisciplinary journal, open access journal, and thematic analysis for the study. The subsequent sections describe the research methodology and research procedure of the study, and present findings and discussions. The final section summarizes the study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL, AND OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice (National Academies, 2004). To achieve true interdisciplinary study, collaboration of researchers in different disciplines is a necessity (Siedlok & Hibbert, 2014). Researchers who have interdisciplinary education and professional experience can make special contributions to interdisciplinary research. Interdisciplinary research can be successful only when professionals from different related disciplines work together to serve a common purpose and to help each other make the connections between different disciplines or subject areas. The interaction among the related disciplines supports the constructivist paradigm that allows the multiple research communities to develop new knowledge and to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects than disciplinary studies (van Rijnsoever & Hessels, 2011).

Interdisciplinary studies have unique characteristics depending upon the intersections of the related research disciplines (Grossi, Papenfub, & Tremblay, 2015; OUR at Oakland, 2018). The interdisciplinary research process is a creative design process (Szostak, 2017). It involves various steps of information gathering and evaluation. The creative design process defines the knowledge structure of the interdisciplinary research domain. This process includes investigations of the foundations of published works to identify the commonplaces of knowledge and approaches in the related fields and to propose future research paths for the interdisciplinary studies (Chabowski, Samiee, & Hult, 2017). A literature review of interdisciplinary studies can reveal the classification of concept schemes and research methodologies developed by researchers with different academic backgrounds (Kindler, 2016). Periodical reviews of the interdisciplinary studies can engage stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of the interdisciplinary research process and to discover potential new dimensions and multiple future directions for the interdisciplinary studies with respect to related domains (Ceulemans, Molderez, & van Liedekerke, 2015). Thematic analysis is one of the effective research approaches to the examination of detailed collection of literature to provide a coherent overview for the related interdisciplinary studies (Louwerse & van Peer, 2002).

Referred interdisciplinary outlets are necessary to certify discussions and to define intersections of the disciplinary research communities for knowledge that needs to be filled (Wear, 1999). Academic journals serve as permanent and transparent forums for the presentation, scrutiny, and discussion of research, and are usually peer-reviewed or refereed (Blake & Bly, 2000). Journal ranking is widely used in academic communities in the evaluation of impact and quality of academic journals, and many objective journal-level metrics have been applied in the academic communities (Lowry et al., 2013). To achieve a high rank, an interdisciplinary journal must define a unique niche of the research community and select qualified and responsible reviewers who can evaluate interdisciplinary research (Campbell, 2005; Wear, 1999).

Management of knowledge and information is an interdisciplinary field because a research theme often crosses over disciplinary boundaries in literature (Lesser, Fontaine, & Slusher 2000). Interdisciplinary studies of management of knowledge and information can bring ideas together by allowing researchers in various related disciplines to reflect on the connections between different disciplines for the shared issues in management of knowledge and information.

Open access journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself (Suber, 2012). No-fee open access journals, also known as platinum open access journals, use a variety of business models to support publication (Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013). An obvious advantage of open

access journals is the free access to academic papers. Open access journals are particularly beneficial to interdisciplinary studies for wide-ranging dissemination (Hess & Ostrom, 2007).

Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis is one of the most common forms of analysis to examine and record themes within qualitative data (Guest, 2012). Themes are patterns across the data set that are important to the description of the attributes of the data related to a research subject (Boyatzis, 1998). A thematic analysis involves six phases: reading the collected data, coding, searching for themes among codes, reviewing themes, analyzing themes, and summarizing findings (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The entire process of thematic analysis is typically an iterative process, and progresses back and forth between the six phases.

Researchers use thematic analysis to gain understanding about a group or an organization. The findings provided by a thematic analysis can be potentially useful for decision-makers of the organization to make interventions. Periodical thematic analysis is particularly valuable for an interdisciplinary journal. As an interdisciplinary journal conducts discussions across multiple disciplinary communities, each disciplinary community can have its own emphases and view issues from different perspectives. Although the discussions made by authors from different disciplines can sound very much like common language, the conclusions could lead the uninitiated reader to misunderstanding. In such a light, an interdisciplinary research journal can be viewed as antithetical to the common practice of communication (Wear, 1999). Thematic analysis would help advance interdisciplinary research by lowering the barrier for both researchers and practitioners to understand the interactions among the different disciplines, enabling more objective evaluation of past efforts, identifying gaps, and proposing new directions for research (Borrego, Foster, & Froyd, 2014).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Quantitative Study of Categorical Content Analysis

There have been many research methodologies for systematic literature review (e.g., Kitchenham et al., 2009; Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003). Nevertheless, a systematic literature review methodology has to cover data collection, data analysis, and result presentation. The present thematic analysis applies the methodology of quantitative study of categorical content analysis (Guest, 2012). Content analysis is a research method for studying documents to examine patterns of communication in a systematic manner (Bryman & Bell, 2011). The content analysis in this study was aimed to reveal general patterns of important attributes of the publications. A content analysis involves systematic reading and categorical coding of the examined texts to indicate the presence of interesting and meaningful pieces of content (Krippendorff, 2004). Content analysis allows researchers to analyze the meanings of content by using qualitative methods and to identify patterns of the examined texts by using quantitative methods. The qualitative method used in a quantitative study of categorical content analysis is a manual or computer-assisted coding process to explore core patterns or themes of papers.

Thematic analysis for an interdisciplinary journal can critically appraise and summarize research to inform trends, policy, and practice. The objective of this thematic analysis is to describe the research profile of IJIKM. The sample collected in this study for analysis were the 162 research papers published in IJIKM since its inauguration in 2006, as listed in Appendix A. All papers were downloaded from the journal's website manually. None of the 162 papers has done a systematic literature review of the IJIKM publications. Among the 162 papers, one paper was unable to be retrieved and two papers did not have keywords. Thus, 159 papers were coded for the quantitative study of categorical content analysis. Simple attributes of the collected data, such as reference citations and keyword patterns, were also analyzed without involving coding.

Reliability of coding is the key to meaningful content analysis (Weber, 1990). To direct the present content analysis, a general guide was set in a form of coding protocol (Yin, 2003) that includes the protocol of aggregated analysis at the sample level, the reference, and the protocol of coding individual papers (Table 1).

Table 1. Outline of the protocol used in the thematic analysis

Protocol Sections	Protocol Components
1. Protocol of aggregated analysis at the sample level	*Objective:* To describe the research profile of IJIKM. *Key issue*: Key topical research themes, major research methodologies, and research design of the papers in IJIKM.
2. Reference	Classification schemes of attributes of research papers and their definitions
3. Protocol of coding individual papers	1. What is the research theme of a paper in IJIKM? 2. What is a general pattern of the research themes of IJIKM? 3. What is an interesting trend of the research themes of IJIKM? 2. What are the research methodology and research design used in a paper in IJIKM? 5. What is a general pattern of research methodologies applied in papers of IJIKM? 6. What is a general pattern of research designs used in papers of IJIKM?

As this study of content analysis did not make an *a priori* hypothesis, answers to the research questions regarding the attributes of the reviewed papers were rather open to the facts that emerge from the data. Thus, the grounded theory approach (Chesebro & Borisoff, 2007; Glaser, 1992) to analysis of the research profile was applied. To classify the attributes of the papers, three major classification schemes were developed: research theme, research methodologies, and research designs. The three classification schemes were drafted before the analysis and were modified along with the coding process, as explained in the next section. A summary of the three classification schemes and their definitions is exhibited in Appendix B.

Coding

Coding has been applied as a tool to facilitate qualitative data analysis to discover the patterns of data and the relationships between sets of data (Kelle & Seidel, 1995; Miles & Huberman, 1994; Strauss & Corbin, 1998; Tashakkori & Teddlie, 1998). There are many methods of coding. In the present content analysis, the taxonomic coding method (Saldana, 2015) was applied. As no useful computerized coding system was found for the present study, a manual coding approach was applied. Given the large volume of textual data of the entire set of papers, it was difficult to code all texts manually. The coding process applied to this study is described as follows. The analyst reviewed the title and abstract of each paper thoroughly, and coded the research theme of the paper by comparing the abstract and the keywords listed in the paper with the definitions of the research themes (Appendix B, Part 1). If the current classification scheme was unable to cover the theme of the paper, the analyst might add an additional entry to the classification scheme. The analyst then read the entire manuscript to ensure that the classification code accurately presented the major theme of the paper. Next, the analyst classified the paper into a category of research methodologies and a category of research designs in accordance with the definitions of the classification schemes (Appendix B, Part 2 and Part

3). Likewise, the classification schemes of research methodologies and research designs were updated during the coding process. Normally, the abstract of a paper does not provide sufficient information to determine the categories of research methodology and the research design used by the paper, and the analyst must read the entire paper to select the most relevant texts from the manuscript for coding. In a few cases reviewed in this study, a single paper could be classified into more than one research methodologies or more than one research designs.

A valid coding process of thematic analysis is iterative (Fereday & Muir-Cochrane, 2006). The coding analysts, who are the authors of the paper, made independent coding, and then worked as a team to make crosschecking. There was no standard classification schemes in this case. A draft of classification schemes was generated by the analysts based on their understanding of the research context of the study and the reading of the overall qualitative data set. The classification schemes were updated for numerous times to ensure the reliability, accuracy, and consistency of coding. The Cohen's Kappa Values were used to evaluate the inter-coder reliability of all the initial codes made by the individual analysts ($\kappa \geq 0.81$ across the study). Disagreement between the analysts was resolved after discussions. A special code of "undetermined" was applied for classification if no appropriate code of the coding scheme could be considered. The overall rate of coded attributes for the analysis was 99.51%. Figure 1 illustrates the iterative coding process applied in this study.

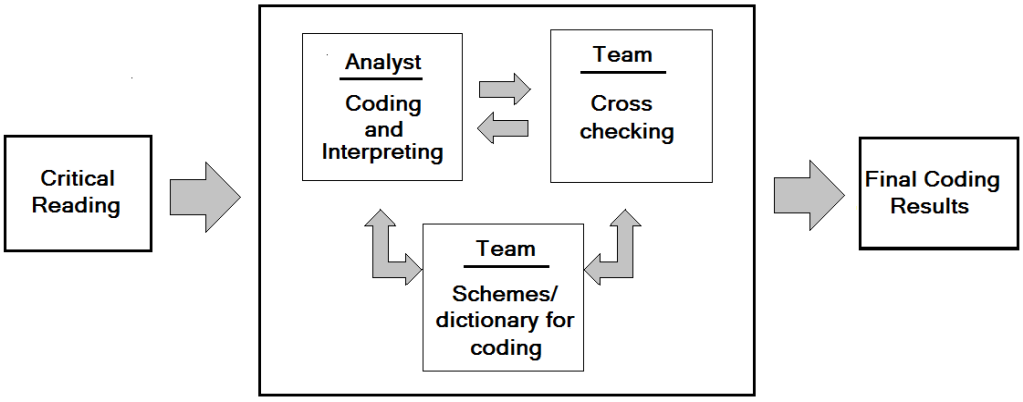

Figure 1. The iterative coding process applied in the study

Data Visualization

Textual data are unstructured. To interpret the analytical results of textual data, quantitative measures and/or data visualization tools (i.e., statistical graphics) are used to present the attributes of the research profile of the journal. Clearly, any quantitative measure or data visualization tool is subject to a certain assumption(s), and requires analytical sensitivity and judgment in interpreting the numerical numbers and the graphics.

Findings

This section presents findings about the research profile of IJIKM, including facts in the aspects of research themes, applied research methodologies and research designs, participant disciplines and countries, keywords patterns, and reference citations.

Distribution of Disciplines

The data of the organizational affiliation of the author of a paper were used to determine the discipline of the paper. The 159 examined papers came from six disciplines. As presented in Figure 2, the two most active disciplines of the majority of papers in this journal were business (57%) and educa-

tion (39%). The data did not show strong collaborations among the researchers from different disciplines.

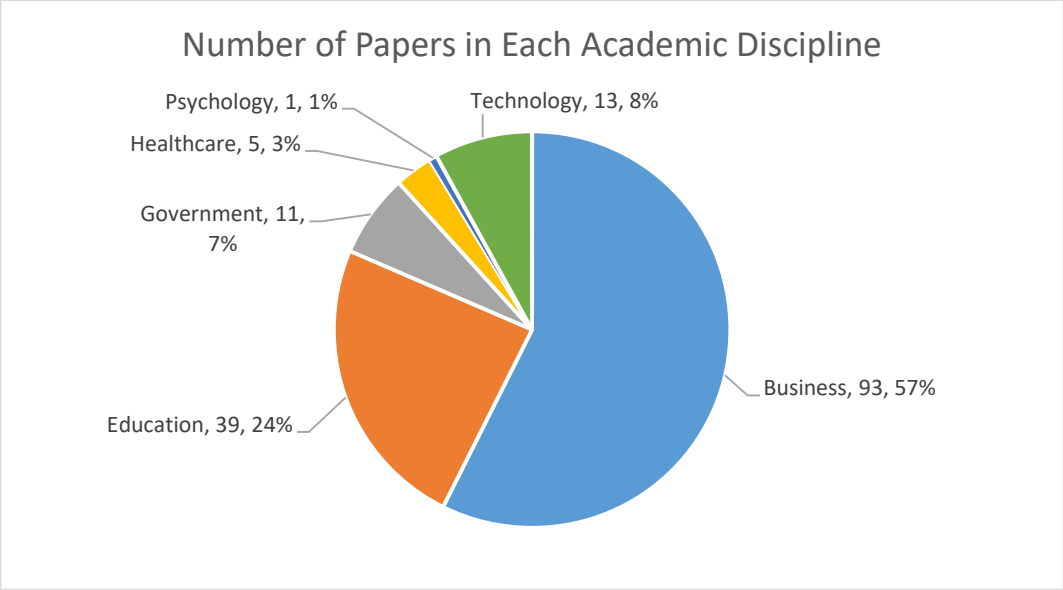

Figure 2. Distribution of disciplines

Research Themes

Distribution of research themes

The pattern of research themes of the papers is the most important attribute to portray the research profile of the interdisciplinary journal. The data analysis revealed that IJIKM convers diversified research themes. Organizational issues of knowledge/information management, Knowledge management systems/tools, Information/knowledge sharing, Technology for knowledge/information management, Information/knowledge application were the five most frequently studied themes in the journal. Figure 3 presents the distribution of the research themes in IJIKM.

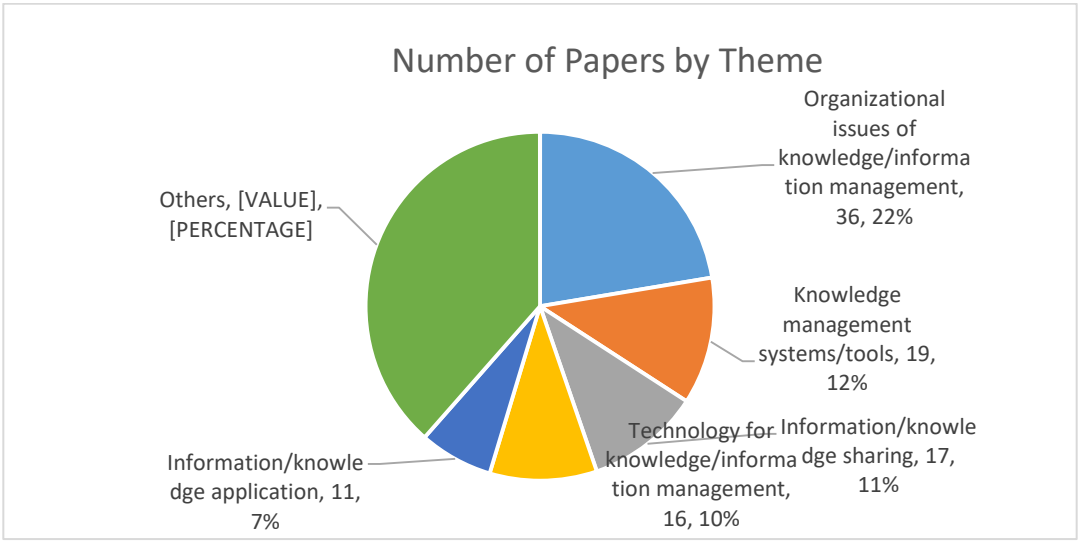

Figure 3. Distribution of research themes in IJIKM

To make intuitive observations of specific research subjects of the research themes, word clouds (Wordclouds, 2018) of the keywords listed in the papers were generated for the journal and each of the most popular research themes. Figure 4 displays the word cloud of all keywords listed in the journal. As shown in Figure 4, innovation, creativity, and critical-success-factors are among the top keywords listed in the journal.

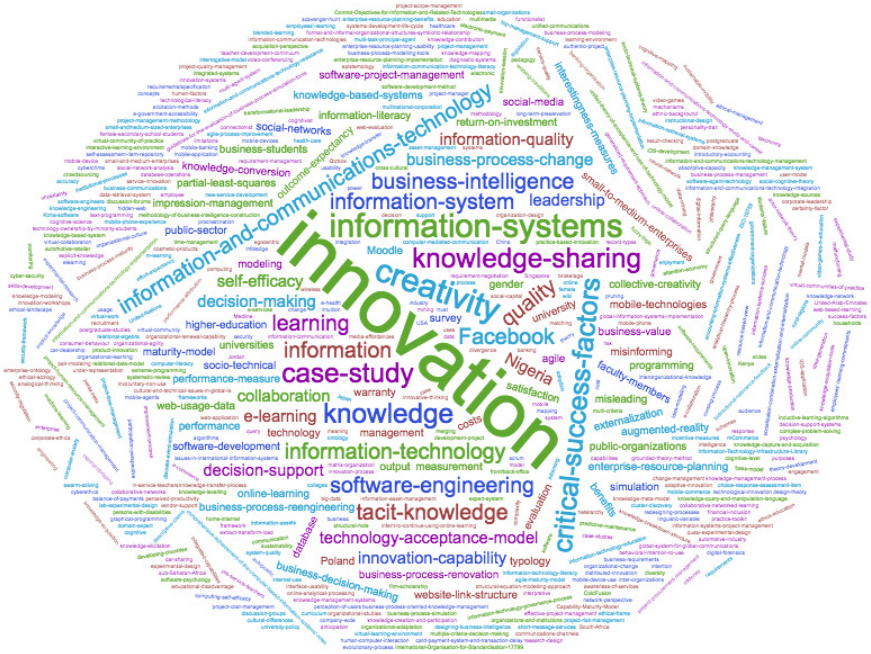

Figure 4. Word clouds of all keywords listed in the journal

Noticeable keywords in the word clouds for several research themes were also observed, as summarized below.

- *Research theme:* Organizational issues of knowledge/information management
  Noticeable keywords: Innovation-capability, public-sector
- *Research theme:* Knowledge management systems/tools
  Noticeable keywords: modeling, decision-making
- *Research theme:* Information/knowledge sharing
  Noticeable keyword: business-process-renovation
- *Research theme:* Technology for knowledge/information management
  Noticeable keyword: small-to-medium-enterprises.

Trend of research themes

To reveal an interesting trend of the distribution of research themes, a comparative analysis was conducted. The annual frequencies of research themes of sample data sets (papers in 2006-present) did not present an observable pattern of changes of research themes. Several trials of different time windows were made in the hope of finding patterns. The sample data were divided into subsets within a 4-year window, a 6-year window, and an 8-year/4-year window, respectively, and the distributions of the research themes of each subsets were generated. A relatively clear trend of research themes was that the total number of papers on organizational issues of knowledge/information management increased from 16% to 28% during the past 6 years, as presented in Figure 5.

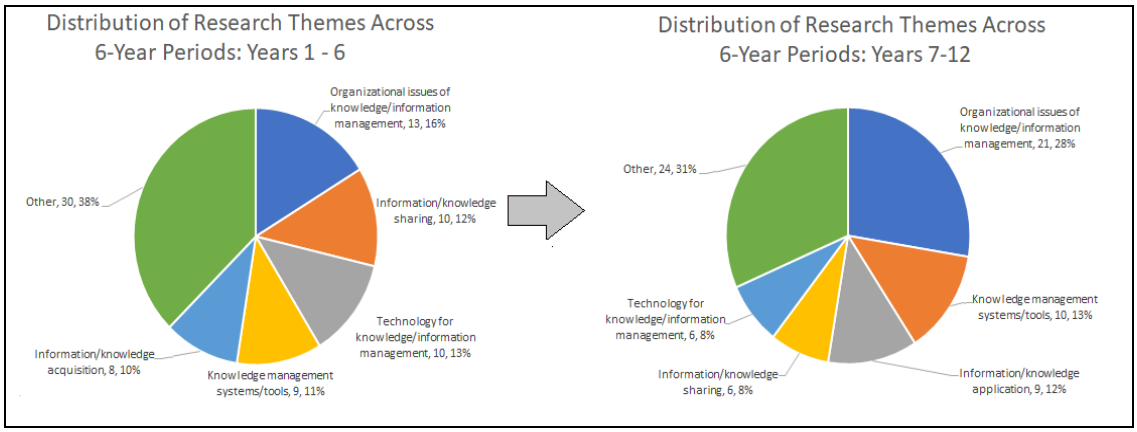

Figure 5. A Trend of research themes

Research themes in the active disciplines

Figure 6 presents the distribution of the most popular research themes of papers in the 6 active disciplines in the IJIKM community.

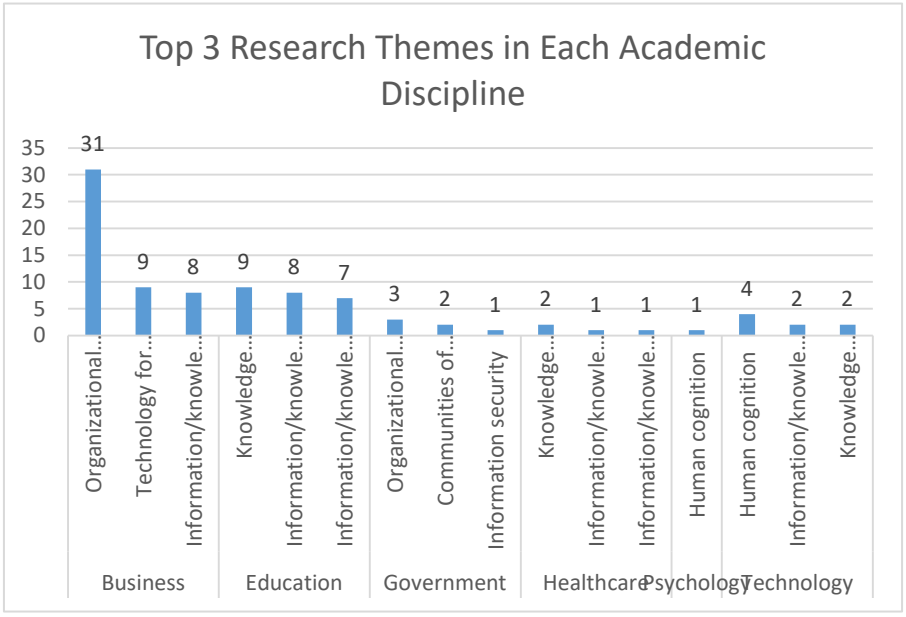

Figure 6. The most popular research themes of papers in the active disciplines

Research Methodologies

Distribution of research methodologies

The distribution of research methodologies was investigated in this study. As presented in Figure 7, statistical method (28%) was the most applied research methodology, followed by qualitative conceptual framework (20%), and qualitative theoretical framework (11%).

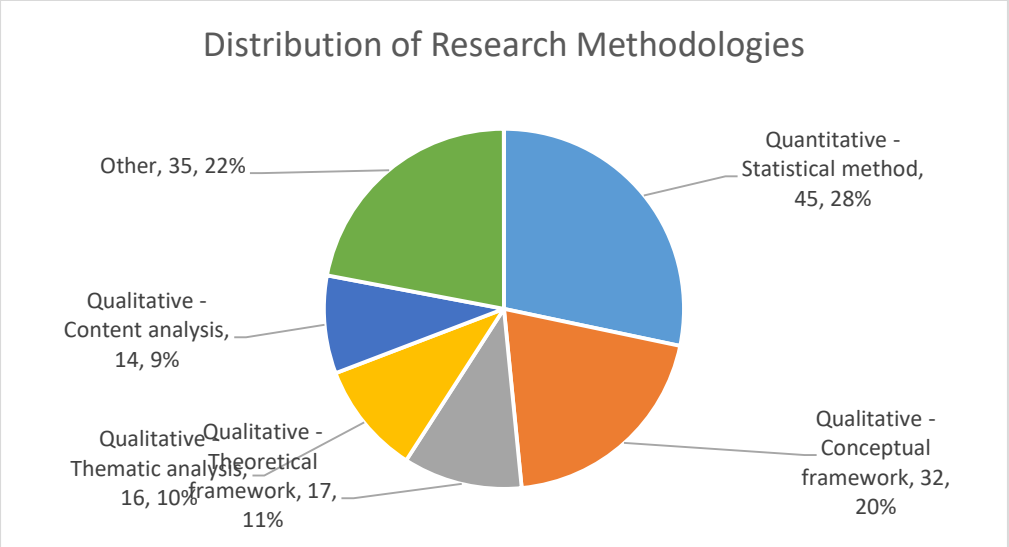

Figure 7. Distribution of research methodologies applied in IJKIM

Research methodologies in the active disciplines

Figure 8 presents the distribution of research methodologies applied in the papers in the active disciplines in the IJIKM community.

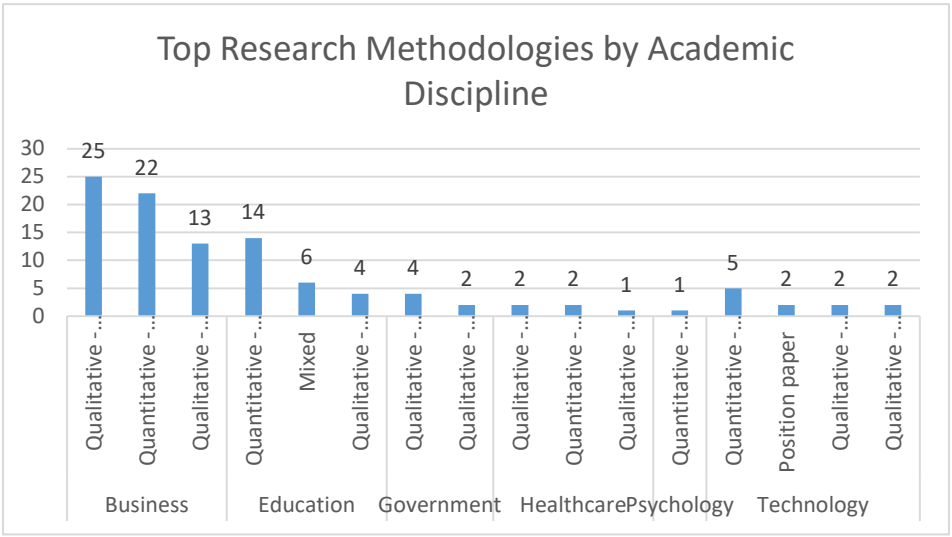

Figure 8. Research Methodologies Applied in Papers in the Active Disciplines

Research Design

The distribution of research designs was also investigated in this study. As presented in Figure 9, summarization (37%) was the most used research design, and observation (2%) was the least used research design used in the papers in this journal.

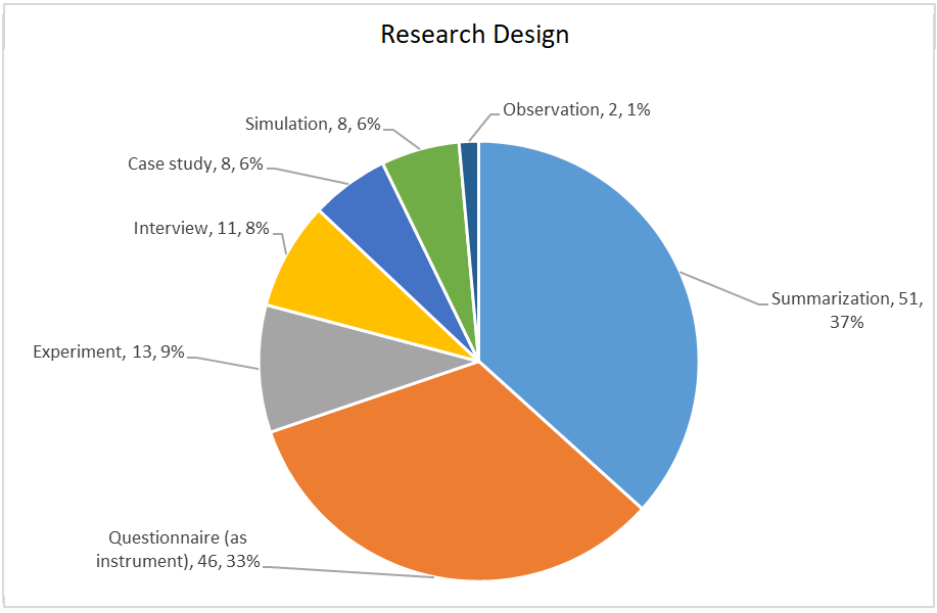

Figure 9. Distribution of research designs applied in IJIKM

Research designs in the active disciplines

Figure 10 presents the distribution of top three research designs applied in the papers in the active disciplines in IJIKM.

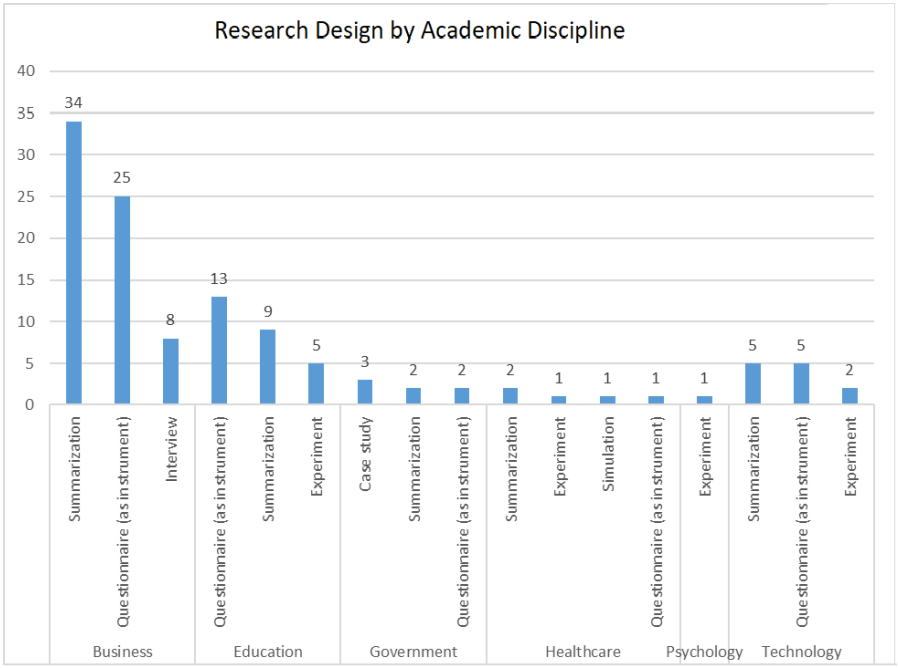

Figure 10. Research designs applied in the papers in the active disciplines

References Citation Pattern

As IJIKM is an interdisciplinary journal, a discipline-based citation analysis is not particularly applicable. In this study, the number of references for each paper was counted. Table 2 lists the descriptive statistics of numbers of references cited in the papers.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of numbers of references cited in the papers of IJIKM

Descriptive Statistics	
Mean	45.83
Median	38.50
Mode	25
Min	6
Max	287
Standard Deviation	32.51

Publication Demographics

The study also investigated descriptive demographics of the papers. The authors of the 159 examined papers came from 42 countries. As presented in Figure 11, the five most active countries of the authors of the papers in this journal were: USA (18%), Australia (8%), South Africa (7%), Finland (6%), and Canada (5%). 20 papers (12%) were co-authored by scholars from two or more countries. Thus, international collaborations among the researchers in this research community could be stronger.

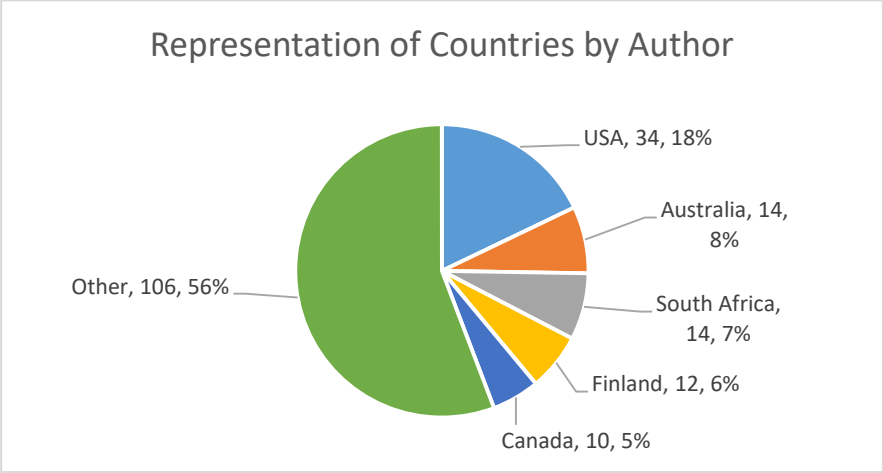

Figure 11. Distribution of the countries of the authors

Research themes in the most active countries

Figure 12 presents the distribution of the most popular research themes of papers from the six most active countries in these research themes.

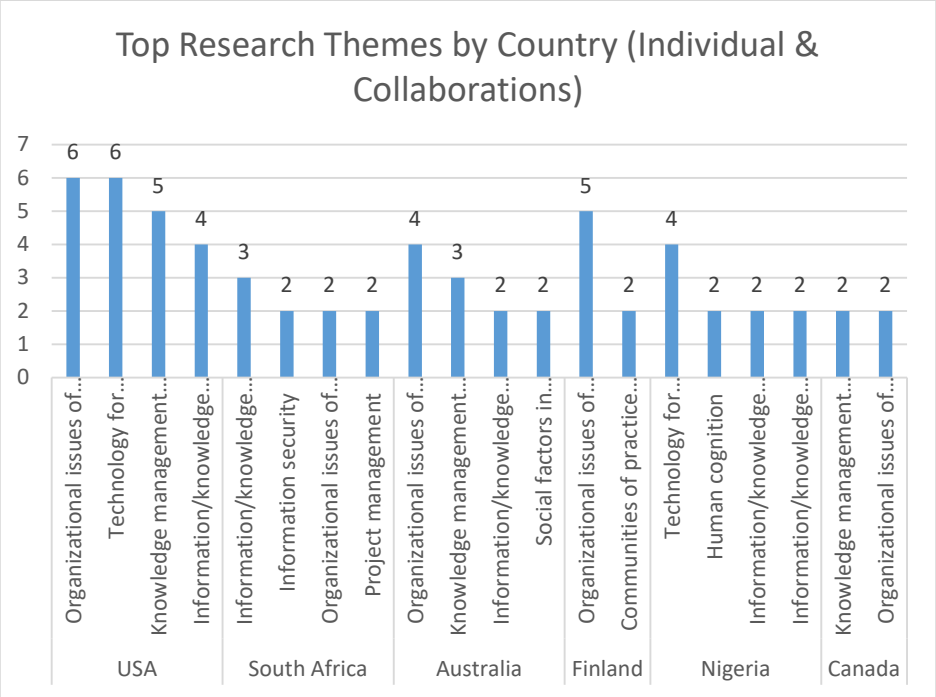

Figure 12. The most popular research themes of papers from the most active countries

Research methodologies in the most active countries

Figure 13 presents the distribution of research methodologies applied in the papers from the 7 most active countries in these research methodologies.

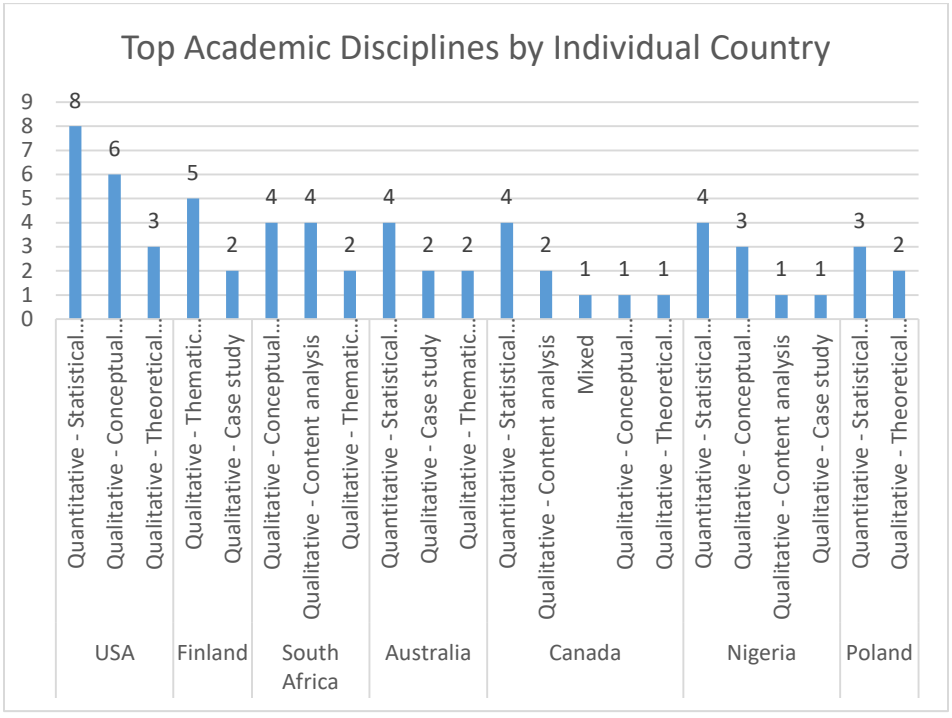

Figure 13. Research methodologies applied in papers from the most active countries

Research designs in the most active countries

Figure 14 presents the distribution of the commonly applied research designs applied in the papers from the seven most active countries in these research designs.

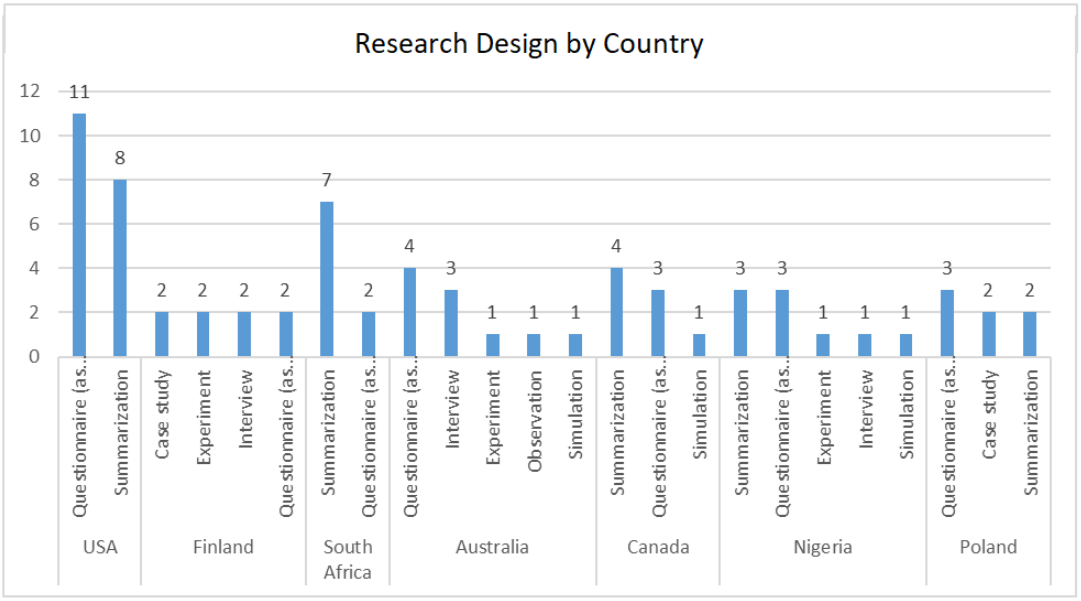

Figure 14. Research designs applied in the papers from the most active countries

Discussion

There have been a number of academic journals of information and knowledge management. Among them, IJIKM is the only one that is open access and proclaims interdisciplinary. Historically, the business discipline has been playing the leading role in research of the subject of information and knowledge management. Thus, the development of theories and practices of information and knowledge management typically focuses on organizational objectives such as improved performance, competitive advantage, innovation, and organizational learning of the organization. These efforts overlap with other disciplines' emphases, but distinguish from that by having a greater weight on the management of information and knowledge as a strategic asset at the organizational level. On the other hand, information and knowledge management can also be related to many other (non-business) disciplines at the human cognitive level as well as at the global and social-cultural level.

This study is the first synthesis of research profile of the publications in IJIKM. Implications of the findings can be useful for the interdisciplinary research in information and knowledge management. First, the non-business traits of information and knowledge management could be brighter. Second, collaborative research projects that involve cross-disciplinary researchers could be fostered to advance knowledge in information and knowledge management. Third, structuring and defining key topics of information and knowledge management in the interdisciplinary context could be encouraged in the future, leading to sustainable integration in information and knowledge management.

Clearly, as the thematic analysis of such a large number of papers was conducted on the basis of subjective understanding and interpretation of the small group of analysts, the study has its limitations; that is, the coding and analyses of these qualitative data were certainly subject to biases or errors.

CONCLUSION

This study has presented the research profile of IJIKM that portrays the major interdisciplinary characteristics. First, IJIKM has involved academic researchers of information and knowledge management in diversified disciplines from a large number of countries and regions across the world. Second, IJIKM disseminates research papers with a wide range of research themes. Among the research themes, Organizational issues of knowledge/information management, Knowledge management systems/tools, Information/knowledge sharing, Technology for knowledge/information management, Information/knowledge application represent the 5 main research streams of IJIKM. Furthermore, the total number of papers on organizational issues of knowledge/information management shifted from 16% to 28% during the past 6 years. Third, statistical method was the most common research methodology, and summarization was the most common research design applied in the papers of IJIKM. The analysis results presented in this paper clearly suggest that IJIKM is a premier reference source for information and knowledge management, and is a valuable publication outlet of research papers in information and knowledge management for all relevant disciplines.

Information and knowledge management is still a developing field, and researchers and practitioners demand more understanding of the dissemination of the literature of information and knowledge management involved in diversified disciplines. The synopsized information about the interdisciplinary research profile of IJIKM presented in this paper contributes to the literature. A longitudinal study could follow up after several years to provide updated and comparative information of the research profile of IJIKM.

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APPENDIX A: LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR THE STUDY

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
1	Link	13, 1	Abdoulaye Kaba, Chennupati K. Ramaiah	Investigating Knowledge Acquisition Among Faculty Members
2	Link	13, 21	Ashraf Ahmed Fadelelmoula	The Effects of the Critical Success Factors for ERP Implementation on the Comprehensive Achievement of the Crucial Roles of Information Systems in the Higher Education Sector
3	Link	13, 45	Abdul Waheed, Jianhua Yang, Jon K. Webber	Reinforcing Consumers' Impulsive Buying Tendencies through M-Devices and Emails in Pakistan
4	Link	13, 61	Lanto Ningrayati Amali, Muhammad Rifai Katili	Identification of Influential Factors in Implementing IT Governance: A Survey Study of Indonesian Companies in the Public Sector
5	Link	12, 1	Kennedy Njenga	Understanding Internal Information Systems Security Policy Violations as Paradoxes
6	Link	12, 17	Chien-Ta Ho, Jhong-Min Yang, Wei-Ting Chen	Factors Affecting Re-usage Intentions of Virtual Communities Supporting Cosmetic Products
7	Link	12, 37	Benjamin Wagner vom Berg, Jorge Marx Gómez, Alexander Sandau	ICT-Platform to Transform Car Dealerships to Regional Providers of Sustainable Mobility Services
8	Link	12, 53	Vaughan Henriques, Maureen Tanner	A Systematic Literature Review of Agile Maturity Model Research

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
9	Link	12, 75	Ahmed A. Al-Hunaiyyan, Andrew T Bimba, Norisma Idris, Salah Al-Sharhan	A Cognitive Knowledge-based Framework for Social and Metacognitive Support in Mobile Learning
10	Link	12, 99	Shreyas Suresh Rao, Ashalatha Nayak	EO Model for Tacit Knowledge Externalization in Socio-Technical Enterprises
11	Link	12, 125	Jeanne Moore	Data Visualization in Support of Executive Decision Making
12	Link	12, 139	Abdul Waheed, Jianhua Yang, Jon K. Webber	The Effect of Personality Traits on Sales Performance: An Empirical Investigation to Test the Five-Factor Model (FFM) in Pakistan
13	Link	12, 159	Alrence S Halibas, Rowena Ocier Sibayan, Rolou Lyn Maata	The Penta Helix Model of Innovation in Oman: An HEI Perspective
14	Link	12, 175	Joy Fluker, Meg Coffin Murray	Transforming Communications in the Workplace: The Impact of UC on Perceived Productivity in a Multi-national Corporation
15	Link	12, 189	Isaac Asampana, Albert Akanlisikum Akanferi, James Ami-Narh	Reasons for Poor Acceptance of Web-Based Learning using an LMS and VLE in Ghana
16	Link	12, 209	Iris A Humala	Typology on Leadership toward Creativity in Virtual Work
17	Link	12, 245	Millicent Agangiba, Salah Kabanda	Research Foci, Methodologies, and Theories Used in Addressing E-Government Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Developing Countries
18	Link	12, 269	Uzoma Heman Ononye, Anthony Igwe	The Utilisation of Facebook for Knowledge Sharing in Selected Local Government Councils in Delta State, Nigeria
19	Link	12, 283	Ayman N. Alkhaldi	An Empirical Examination of Customers' Mobile Phone Experience and Awareness of Mobile Banking Services in Mobile Banking in Saudi Arabia
20	Link	12, 309	Shamsudeen Ladan Shagari, Akilah Abdullah, Rafeah Mat Saat	Accounting Information Systems Effectiveness: Evidence from the Nigerian Banking Sector
21	Link	12, 337	Andre Calitz, Margaret Cullen	The Application of a Knowledge Management Framework to Automotive Original Component Manufacturers
22	Link	11, 1	Babak Teimourpour, Vahid Eslami, Maghsoud Mohammadi, Milad Padidarfard	A Conceptual Model for the Creation of a Process-Oriented Knowledge Map (POK-Map) and Implementation in an Electric Power Distribution Company

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
23	Link	11, 17	Prokreeti Mitra, Sasmita Mishra	Behavioural Aspects of ERP Implementation: A Conceptual Review
24	Link	11, 31	Karoly Bozan, Pratim Datta	The Effect of Perceived Expected Satisfaction with Electronic Health Records Availability on Expected Satisfaction with Electronic Health Records Portability in a Multi-Stakeholder Environment
25	Link	11, 55	Irena Malgorzata Ali	Doing the Organizational Tango: Symbiotic Relationship between Formal and Informal Organizational Structures for an Agile Organization
26	Link	11, 73	Olusola I. Akinbobola, Akinniyi A. Adeleke	External Variables as Antecedents of Users Perception in Virtual Library Usage
27	Link	11, 89	Ewe Ziemba	Factors Affecting the Adoption and Usage of ICTs within Polish Households
28	Link	11, 115	Christian Nedu Osakwe, Titus Chukwuemezie Okeke	Facilitating mCommerce Growth in Nigeria through mMoney Usage: A Preliminary Analysis
29	Link	11, 141	Luis E Valdez-Juárez, Domingo García-Pérez de Lema, Gonzalo Maldonado-Guzmán	Management of Knowledge, Innovation and Performance in SMEs
30	Link	11, 177	Chris W Callaghan	Knowledge Management and Problem Solving in Real Time: The Role of Swarm Intelligence
31	Link	11, 201	Eunyoung Kim, Hideyuki Horii	Analogical Thinking for Generation of Innovative Ideas: An Exploratory Study of Influential Factors
32	Link	11, 215	Shahram Nasiri, Mohammad Javad Nasiri, Asiyeh Sa'adati Azar	Towards A Methodology for the Pre-Stage of Implementing a Reengineering Project
33	Link	11, 235	Faisal Iddris	Innovation Capability: A Systematic Review and Research Agenda
34	Link	11, 261	Chengyi Le	A Multi-task Principal Agent Model for Knowledge Contribution of Enterprise Staff
35	Link	11, 273	Alastair Irons, Jacques Ophoff	Aspects of Digital Forensics in South Africa
36	Link	11, 285	Eeva M. Järvenpää, Miia-Johanna Kopra, Minna Lanz	Challenges of Knowledge and Information Management during New Product Introduction: Experiences from a Finnish Multinational Company

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
37	Link	11, 309	Brenda M Scholtz, Imran Mahmud, Ramayah T.	Does Usability Matter? An Analysis of the Impact of Usability on Technology Acceptance in ERP Settings
38	Link	11, 331	Adebowale I Ojo	Knowledge Management in Nigerian Universities: A Conceptual Model
39	Link	11, 347	Maxine P Esterhuyse, Brenda M Scholtz, Danie Venter	Intention to Use and Satisfaction of e-Learning for Training in the Corporate Context
40	Link	10, 1	Danny Wee Hock Quik, Nevan Wright, Ammar Rashid, Sivadass Thiruchelvam	Influential Factors of Collaborative Networks in Manufacturing: Validation of a Conceptual Model
41	Link	10, 21	Yan Lu, Joseph T. Chao, Kevin R. Parker	HUNT: Scavenger Hunt with Augmented Reality
42	Link	10, 37	George Gatuha, Tao Jiang	KenVACS: Improving Vaccination of Children through Cellular Network Technology in Developing Countries
43	Link	10, 47	Ewa Ziemba, Iwona Oblak	Change Management in Information Systems Projects for Public Organizations in Poland
44	Link	10, 63	Raafat George Saadé, Heliu Dong, James Wan	Factors of Project Manager Success
45	Link	10, 81	Ayman Alarabiat, Samer Al-Mohammad	The Potential for Facebook Application in Undergraduate Learning: A Study of Jordanian Students
46	Link	10, 105	Nemwel Aming'a	Knowledge Capture and Acquisition Mechanisms at Kisii University
47	Link	10, 117	Thale Kvernberg Andersen	Employees' Involuntary Non-Use of ICT Influenced by Power Differences: A Case Study with the Grounded Theory Approach
48	Link	10, 145	Soud Almahamid, Omer Awsi	Perceived Organizational ERP Benefits for SMEs: Middle Eastern Perspective
49	Link	10, 173	Ryan Wark, Jon K. Webber	A Qualitative Descriptive Analysis of Collaboration Technology in the Navy
50	Link	10, 193	Stefan Holgersson	How the Use of ICT can Contribute to a Misleading Picture of Conditions – A Five-Step Process
51	Link	10, 217	Alexei Botchkarev	Estimating the Accuracy of the Return on Investment (ROI) Performance Evaluations
52	Link	9, 1	James N. Morgan, Sury Ravindran	An Examination of Home Internet and Mobile Device Use in the U.S.

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
53	Link	9, 19	Joseph T. Chao, Tanxin Du, Christopher Wagenheim, Theodore Rippey	Mise en Scène: A Film Scholarship Augmented Reality Mobile Application
54	Link	9, 31	Ewa Ziemba, Iwona Obłąk	The Survey of Information Systems in Public Administration in Poland
55	Link	9, 59	Aleksandar Bulajic, Radoslav Stojic, Samuel Sambasivam	The Generalized Requirement Approach for Requirement Validation with Automatically Generated Program Code
56	Link	9, 89	Joseph Johnson, Susan J. Lincke, Ralf Imhof, Charles Lim	A Comparison of International Information Security Regulations
57	Link	9, 117	Noushin Ashrafi, Lori Kelleher, Jean-Pierre Kuilboer	The Impact of Business Intelligence on Healthcare Delivery in the USA
58	Link	9, 131	Martti Mäkimattila, Minna Saunila, Juho Salminen	Interaction and Innovation - Reframing Innovation Activities for a Matrix Organization
59	Link	9, 153	Jing-Hua Li, Qui-Bo Huang, Li Lin	Social Capital and Knowledge Transfer in New Service Development: The Front/Back Office Perspective
60	Link	9, 175	Ying Huang, Xingjun Wang, Mickaël Gardoni, Coulibaly Amadou	A Knowledge Integration Methodology for Developing Customized Maintenance Documents
61	Link	9, 193	David J. Cornforth, Dean Robinson, Ian Spence, Herbert Jelinek	Heart Rate Recovery in Decision Support for High Performance Athlete Training Schedules
62	Link	8, 1	Ewa Ziemba, Iwona Obłąk	Critical Success Factors for ERP Systems Implementation in Public Administration
63	Link	8, 21	Mirva Hyypiä, Satu Parjanen	Boosting Creativity with Transformational Leadership in Fuzzy Front-end Innovation Processes
64	Link	8, 43	Olusola I. Akinbobola, Akinniyi A. Adeleke	The Influence of User Efficacy and Expectation on Actual System Use
65	Link	8, 59	Anna-Maija Nisula, Aino Kianto	Evaluating and Developing Innovation Capabilities with a Structured Method
66	Link	8, 83	Fan-Yun Pai, Hung-Fan Chang	The Effects of Knowledge Sharing and Absorption on Organizational Innovation Performance – A Dynamic Capabilities Perspective
67	Link	8, 99	Momir Beljić, Virgilio Panapanaan, Lassi Linnanen, Tuomo Uotila	Environmental Knowledge Management of Finnish Food and Drink Companies in Eco-Efficiency and Waste Management
68	Link	7, 1	Tantatape Brahmasrene,	Determinants of Intent to Continue Using

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
			Jung-Wan Lee	Online Learning: A Tale of Two Universities
69	Link	7, 21	Anne Kallio, Paula Kujansivu, Satu Parjanen	Locating the Weak Points of Innovation Capability before Launching a Development Project
70	Link	7, 39	Jelena Jovanovic, Raymond Chiong, Thomas Weise	Social Networking, Teaching, and Learning: Introduction to Special Section on Social Networking, Teaching, and Learning (SNTL) ***(*Missing keywords – excluded)***
71	Link	7, 45	Ruti Gafni , Moran Deri	(SNTL #1) Costs and Benefits of Facebook for Undergraduate Students
72	Link	7, 63	Nicole A. Buzzetto-More	(SNTL #2) Social Networking in Undergraduate Education
73	Link	7, 91	Glen Hordemann, Joseph T. Chao	(SNTL #3) Design and Implementation Challenges to an Interactive Social Media Based Learning Environment
74	Link	7, 109	Satu Parjanen	Experiencing Creativity in the Organization: From Individual Creativity to Collective Creativity
75	Link	7, 129	Celina M. Olszak, Ewa Ziemba	Critical Success Factors for Implementing Business Intelligence Systems in Small and Medium Enterprises on the Example of Upper Silesia, Poland
76	Link	7, 151	Leif Jarle Gressgård	Text-Based Collaborative Work and Innovation: Effects of Communication Media Affordances on Divergent and Convergent Thinking in Group-Based Problem-Solving
77	Link	7, 177	Nina Evans, James Price	Barriers to the Effective Deployment of Information Assets: An Executive Management Perspective
78	Link	7, 201	Jelena Jovanovic, Raymond Chiong	Introduction to the Special Section on Game-based Learning: Design and Applications (GbL) (****Missing keywords – excluded***)
79	Link	7, 205	M. O. Thirunarayanan, Manuel Vilchez	(GbL #1) Life Skills Developed by Those Who Have Played in Video Game Tournaments
80	Link	7, 221	Goran Šimić	(GbL #2) Constructive Simulation as a Collaborative Learning Tool in Education and Training of Crisis Staff
81	Link	7, 237	Joseph Barjis, Ashish Gupta, Ramesh Sharda, Tatiana Bouzdine-Chameeva, Peggy	(GbL #3) Innovative Teaching Using Simulation and Virtual Environments

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
			D. Lee, Alexander Verbraeck	
82	Link	6, 1	Matthew Jelavic	Socio-Technical Knowledge Management and Epistemological Paradigms: Theoretical Connections at the Individual and Organisational Level
83	Link	6, 17	Hamid Rahimi, Azizollah ArbabiSarjou, Sayeed Mohsen Allammeh, Razieh Aghababaei	Relationship between Knowledge Management Process and Creativity among Faculty Members in the University
84	Link	6, 35	Raafat George Saadé, Fassil Nebebe, Tak Mak	Knowledge Management Systems Development: Theory and Practice
85	Link	6, 73	Kirby McMaster, Samuel Sambasivam, Nicole Anderson	Relational Algebra Programming With Microsoft Access Databases
86	Link	6, 85	Sabra E. Brock, Yogini Joglekar	Empowering PowerPoint: Slides and Teaching Effectiveness
87	Link	6, 95	Jo Coldwell, Annemieke Craig, Annegret Goold	Using eTechnologies for Active Learning
88	Link	6, 107	Hans Lehmann	Second Time Lucky? A Tale of Two Systems
89	Link	6, 119	Rachel Or-Bach, Bert Bredeweg	Pair Modeling with DynaLearn – Students' Attitudes and Actual Effects
90	Link	6, 137	Maja Dimitrijevic, Zita Bošnjak	Web Usage Association Rule Mining System
91	Link	6, 151	Yair Levy, Timothy J. Ellis	A Guide for Novice Researchers on Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Studies in Information Systems Research
92	Link	6, 163	Dimitar Christozov, Stefanka Chukova, Plamen Mateev	Assessment of Risk of Misinforming: Dynamic Measures
93	Link	6, 177	Bob Travica	Back to Basics of Informing: The INIS Principle
94	Link	6, 197	Celina M. Olszak, Ewa Ziemba	The Use of ICT for Economic Development in the Silesian Region in Poland
95	Link	6, 217	Ojiabo Ukoha, Hart Awa, Christen A. Nwuche, Ikechukwu Asiegbu	Analysis of Explanatory and Predictive Architectures and the Relevance in Explaining the Adoption of IT in SMEs
96	Link	6, 231	Raafat George Saadé, Serge Elgaly, Fassil Nebebe	Examining a Flow-Usage Model to Understand MultiMedia-Based Learning

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
97	Link	6, 245	Alexei Botchkarev, Peter Andru	A Return on Investment as a Metric for Evaluating Information Systems: Taxonomy and Application
98	Link	5, 1	Satu Parjanen, Vesa Harmaakorpi, Tapani Frantsi	Collective Creativity and Brokerage Functions in Heavily Cross-Disciplined Innovation Processes
99	Link	5, 23	Kevin R. Parker	The Reference List Formatter: An Object-Oriented Development Project
100	Link	5, 49	Stephen Burgess, G. Michael McGrath	Using Research Techniques to Teach Management of IT Concepts to Postgraduate Business Students
101	Link	5, 61	Dimitar Christozov, Stefanka Chukova, Plamen Mateev	Assessment of Quality of Warranty Policy
102	Link	5, 73	Pao-Nan Chou, Hsi-Chi Hsiao	The Effect of Static Visual Instruction on Students' Online Learning: A Pilot Study
103	Link	5, 83	Manar Abu Talib, Adel Khelifi, Leon Jololian	Secure Software Engineering: A New Teaching Perspective Based on the SWEBOK
104	Link	5, 101	J. E. Everett	Simulation Modeling of an Iron Ore Operation to Enable Informed Planning
105	Link	5, 115	Ruti Gafni, Nitza Geri	Time Management: Procrastination Tendency in Individual and Collaborative Tasks
106	Link	5, 127	Jorge Pérez, Meg Coffin Murray	Generativity: The New Frontier for Information and Communication Technology Literacy
107	Link	5, 139	Kevin Johnson, Catherine Lillis	Clickers in the Laboratory: Student Thoughts and Views
108	Link	5, 153	Olufunke R. Vincent, Olusegun Folorunso, Adio Taofiki Akinwale, Adebayo D. Akinde	Transaction Flow in Card Payment Systems Using Mobile Agents
109	Link	5, 167	Lily Wong, Arthur Tatnall	Factors Determining the Balance between Online and Face-to-Face Teaching: An Analysis using Actor-Network Theory
110	Link	5, 177	Annemieke Craig, Jo Coldwell	An Initiative to Address the Gender Imbalance in Tertiary IT Studies
111	Link	5, 191	Maja Dimitrijević, Zita Bošnjak	Discovering Interesting Association Rules in the Web Log Usage Data
112	Link	5, 209	Theda Thomas, Mary Ahyick	Can We Help Information Systems Students Improve Their Ethical Decision Making?

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
113	Link	5, 225	Anastasis Petrou	Adaptive Innovation and a MOODLE-based VLE to Support a Fully Online MSc Business Information Technology (BIT) at the University of East London (UEL)
114	Link	5, 237	Iwona Miliszewska, Ewa Sztendur	Interest in ICT Studies and Careers: Perspectives of Secondary School Female Students from Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds
115	Link	5, 261	Dorothy Langley, Miki Ronen	Designing a Self-Assessment Item Repository: An Authentic Project in Higher Education
116	Link	5, 277	Anuoluwapo Ajayi, Emmanuel A. Olajubu, D. F. Ninan, S. A. Akinboro, H. Abimbola Soriyan	Development and Testing of a Graphical FORTRAN Learning Tool for Novice Programmers
117	Link	5, 293	Adio Taofiki Akinwale, Adekoya Felix Adebayo, S. Adebukola Onashoga	Egocentric Database Operations for Social and Economic Network Analysis
118	Link	5, 305	Karyn Rastrick, James Corner	Understanding ICT Based Advantages: A Techno Savvy Case Study
119	Link	5, 327	Soud Almahamid, Arthur C. McAdams, Taher Kalaldeh	The Relationship among Organizational Knowledge Sharing Practices, Employees' Learning Commitments, Employees' Adaptability, and Employees' Job Satisfaction: An Empirical Investigation
120	Link	5, 357	Helinä Melkas, Tuomo Uotila, Anne Kallio	Information Quality and Absorptive Capacity in Service and Product Innovation Processes
121	Link	5, 375	Dragana Martinovic, Timothy Pugh, Jelena Magliaro	Pedagogy for Mobile ICT Learning Using Video-Conferencing Technology
122	Link	5, 395	Norazah Mohd Suki, T. Ramayah	User Acceptance of the E-Government Services in Malaysia: Structural Equation Modelling Approach *(* Error on the journal site – excluded)*
123	Link	4, 1	David M. Steiger, Natalie M. Steiger	Discovering a Decision Maker's Mental Model with Instance-Based Cognitive Mining: A Theoretical Justification and Implementation
124	Link	4, 23	R. B. Faiz, Eran A. Edirisinghe	Decision Making for Predictive Maintenance in Asset Information Management
125	Link	4, 37	Nelson K. Y. Leung, Seung Hwan Kang, Sim Kim Lau, Joshua Fan	Ontology-based Collaborative Inter-organizational Knowledge Management Network

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
126	Link	4, 51	Oludele Awodele, Emmanuel Rotimi Adagunodo, Adio Taofiki Akinwale, Sunday Idowu, M. Agbaje	An Improved SMS User Interface Result Checking System
127	Link	3, 1	Priti Srinivas Sajja	Multi-Agent System for Knowledge-Based Access to Distributed Databases
128	Link	3, 11	Wei-Bang Chen, Yufeng Li, Seng-Jaw Soong, Dongquan Chen	A Guided Approach for Personalized Information Search and Visualization
129	Link	3, 23	Ruti Gafni	Framework for Quality Metrics in Mobile-Wireless Information Systems
130	Link	3, 39	Simon Mukenge Tshinu, Gerrit Botha, Marlien Herselman	An Integrated ICT Management Framework for Commercial Banking Organisations
131	Link	3, 55	Hendrik Halim, Irene Keng Howe Chew	Performance Attributions: A Cross Cultural Study Comparing Singapore, Japan and US Companies
132	Link	3, 73	Mariana Hentea	Improving Security for SCADA Control Systems
133	Link	3, 87	Vesa Harmaakorpi, Arto Mutanen	Knowledge Production in Networked Practice-based Innovation Processes – Interrogative Model as a Methodological Approach
134	Link	3, 103	Amanda Regolini, Frédéric Berger, Emmanuelle Jannès-Ober, Luuk Dorren	From Tailored Databases to Wikis: Using Emerging Technologies to Work Together More Efficiently
135	Link	3, 115	Demosthenes Akoumianakis	Designing an 'Electronic Village' of Local Interest on Tourism: The eKoNES Framework
136	Link	3, 135	Lori Baker-Eveleth, Robert W. Stone	Expectancy Theory and Behavioral Intentions to Use Computer Applications
137	Link	2, 1	James W. Gabberty, Jennifer D. E. Thomas	Driving Creativity: Extending Knowledge Management into the Multinational Corporation
138	Link	2, 17	Panagiotis Petratos	Information Retrieval Systems: A Human Centered Approach
139	Link	2, 33	Arthur Tatnall , Stephen Burgess	Experiences in Building and Using Decision-Support Systems in Postgraduate University Courses
140	Link	2, 43	Miha Škerlavaj, Vlado Dimovski	Towards Network Perspective of Intra-Organizational Learning: Bridging the Gap between Acquisition and Participation Perspective

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
141	Link	2, 59	Nicole A. Buzzetto-More, Retta Guy	The Technology Ownership and Information Acquisition Habits of HBCU Freshmen
142	Link	2, 73	Vesna Bosilj-Vuksic, Vlatko Ceric, Vlatka Hlupic	Criteria for the Evaluation of Business Process Simulation Tools
143	Link	2, 89	Viveca Asproth	Integrated Information Systems - A Challenge for Long-Term Digital Preservation
144	Link	2, 99	Aneerav Sukhoo, Andries Barnard, Mariki M. Eloff, John A. Van der Poll	An Evolutionary Software Project Management Maturity Model for Mauritius
145	Link	2, 119	Mojca Indihar Stemberger, Andrej Kovacic, Jurij Jaklic	A Methodology for Increasing Business Process Maturity in Public Sector
146	Link	2, 135	Celina M. Olszak, Ewa Ziemba	Approach to Building and Implementing Business Intelligence Systems
147	Link	2, 149	Rita C Nienaber, Andries Barnard	A Generic Agent Framework to Support the Various Software Project Management Processes
148	Link	2, 163	Adesina S. Sodiya , Olumide Babatope Longe, S. Adebukola Onashoga, Oludele Awodele, L. O. Omotosho	An Improved Assessment of Personality Traits in Software Engineering
149	Link	2, 179	Wernher R. Friedrich, John A. Van der Poll	Towards a Methodology to Elicit Tacit Domain Knowledge from Users
150	Link	1, 1	David R. Firth, Cameron Lawrence, Shawn F. Clouse	Predicting Internet-based Online Community Size and Time to Peak Membership Using the Bass Model of New Product Growth
151	Link	1, 13	Tzyh-Lih Hsia, Li-Min Lin, Jen-Her Wu , Hsien-Tang Tsai	A Framework for Designing Nursing Knowledge Management Systems
152	Link	1, 23	Kimberly Furumo, J. Michael Pearson, Nancy L. Martin	Do Project Management Tools and Outcomes Differ in Organizations of Varying Size and Sector?
153	Link	1, 37	Peter Trkman, Aleš Groznik	Measurement of Supply Chain Integration Benefits
154	Link	1, 47	Celina M. Olszak, Ewa Ziemba	Business Intelligence Systems in the Holistic Infrastructure Development Supporting Decision Making in Organisations
155	Link	1, 59	Namdar Mogharreban	Adaptation of a Cluster Discovery Technique to a Decision Support System
156	Link	1, 69	Line Dube, Anne Bourhis, Real Jacob	Towards a Typology of Virtual Communities of Practice

No	Link	Volume, first page number	Author	Title
157	Link	1, 95	Eric C. Okafor, Charles C. Osuagwu	The Underlying Issues in Knowledge Elicitation
158	Link	1, 109	Ales Popovic, Mojca Indihar Stemberger, Jurij Jaklic	Applicability of Process Maps for Simulation Modeling in Business Process Change Projects
159	Link	1, 125	Jamshed Siddiqui, Zillur Rahman	TQM for Information Systems: Are Indian Organizations Ready?
160	Link	1, 137	Firas M. Alkhaldi, Mohammad Olaimat	Knowledge Conversion and Transfer: A Mathematical Interpretation
161	Link	1, 151	Brian H. Cameron, Loreen Butcher-Powell	Gender Differences among IT Professionals in Dealing with Change and Skill Set Maintenance
162	Link	1, 159	Robert Joseph Skovira	An Ethical Ecology of a Corporate Leader: Modeling the Ethical Frame of Corporate Leadership

APPENDIX B: CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

1. Research Themes

Code	Theme	Definition
Foundations of information/knowledge management		
RT-1	Organizational issues of knowledge/information management	The issues arising between people and technologies in an organization that affect or are affected by knowledge management and leadership.
RT-2	Organizational learning/Learning organization	Learning processes within an organization involving the interaction of individual and collective levels of analysis leading to the achievement of the organization's goals
RT-3	Social factors in knowledge/information management	The human and social factors involved in the production and use of knowledge/information
RT-4	Theories or models of knowledge management	A theory or model that aims to advance the understanding of how knowledge is managed in an organization
RT-5	Impact of knowledge management	The effects of knowledge management implementations in an organization

Code	Theme	Definition
Information/knowledge management methodologies		
RT-6	Information/knowledge acquisition	The process of identifying, extracting, structuring, and organizing knowledge from an existing source so that it can be stored and retrieved for later use
RT-7	Knowledge structure modeling	Representations of the basic schemes under which knowledge and interrelated facts may be organized
RT-8	Information/knowledge sharing	The organization and distribution of knowledge
RT-9	Information/knowledge application	The use of available information/knowledge to make decisions and perform tasks
RT-10	Business intelligence & analytics	Architectures, tools, databases, analytical tools, applications, and methodologies that enable interactive access to data and manipulation of data to allow managers and analysts the ability to conduct appropriate analysis to extract actionable insights
RT-11	Communities of practice (CoP)	An organic, self-organized, and geographically or organizationally dispersed group of individuals who communicate regularly to discuss information/knowledge management issues of mutual interest
RT-12	Knowledge management systems/tools	The integration of technologies and mechanisms that are developed to support knowledge management processes

2. Research Methodologies

Code	Methodology	Definition
Qualitative		**An investigation of observable issue through the use of unquantifiable data in a form of human natural language**
RM-1	Case study	An empirical analysis of the development of a person, group, event, decision, policy, organization, or situation within its real-life context
RM-2	Causal analysis	An analysis conducted in order to identify the extent and nature of cause-and-effect relationships
RM-3	Conceptual analysis	A representation of the researcher's synthesis of interrelated literature and existing theories to explain a phenomenon
RM-4	Content analysis	A systematic analysis of documents for contextualized interpretations through the use of a manual or computer-assisted technique to produce valid and trustworthy inferences
RM-5	Design science	An outcome-based information technology research methodology that offers specific guidelines for evaluation and iteration within research projects

Code	Methodology	Definition
RM-6	Thematic analysis	An analysis of documents or any qualitative materials (e.g., photos, survey responses, interview transcripts) through the use of a manual or computer-assisted technique to explore core patterns or themes.
RM-7	Theoretical framework	A study based on an existing theory or theories to explain a phenomenon
Quantitative		**A systematic empirical investigation of observable phenomena through the use of a statistical, mathematical, or computational method**
RM-8	Computational method	Mathematical models used to numerically study the behavior of complex systems by means of a computer simulation
RM-9	Mathematical method	A method of abstraction of number, quantity, structure, space, or change
RM-10	Statistical method	A method of the collection, analysis, interpretation, presentation, and organization of data
Mixed		**Collecting, analyzing, and integrating quantitative and qualitative research and data in a single study or in a program of enquiry**
RM-11	Case study and statistical method	A study that employs qualitative data via a case study and quantitative data via a statistical method
RM-12	Content analysis and statistical method	A study that employs qualitative data via a content analysis and quantitative data via a statistical method
RM-13	Thematic analysis and statistical method	A study that employs qualitative data via a thematic analysis and quantitative data via a statistical method
RM-14	Theoretical framework and statistical method	A study that employs qualitative data via a theoretical framework and quantitative data via a statistical method
Other		
RM-15	Position paper	A report outlining the author's attitude or intentions regarding a particular matter

3. Research Design

Code	Research Design	Definition
DCM-1	Experiment	A designed trial, tentative procedure, or operation to collect data
DCM-2	Focus group	A gathering of deliberately selected people who participate in a planned discussion that is intended to elicit perceptions about a particular topic or area of interest
DCM-3	Interview	A verbal conversation among people with the objective of collecting relevant information

Code	Research Design	Definition
DCM-4	Summarization	An evaluative survey of scholarly articles, books, and other sources relevant to a particular area of research or interest that summarizes previous research on a topic
DCM-5	Observation	The systematic noting and recording of events, behaviors, and artifacts (objects) to observe a phenomenon in a natural setting or naturally occurring situations.
DCM-6	Simulation	The systematic noting and recording of events, behaviors, and artifacts (objects) to observe a phenomenon in a simulated setting or simulated occurring situations.
DCM-7	Questionnaire (as instrument)	Questioning a sample of individuals from a population on a topic or topics by using a questionnaire

BIOGRAPHIES

Shouhong Wang is a Professor of Management Information Systems at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He received his PhD in Information Systems from McMaster University. His teaching and research interests include innovative teaching, semantic networks, knowledge management, and business intelligence. He has published over 130 papers in academic journals and several books in the MIS area.

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