Call for Papers for a Special issue of IJITM on:
Knowledge Sharing within Knowledge Intensive Organizations

The role that knowledge plays in an organization became a focus of attention in the 1990s with the work of Alvesson (1993), who was among the first to discuss the concepts of knowledge-intensive work and knowledge-intensive firms, and Blackler (1995) who looked at the role of knowledge, knowledge workers and organizational competencies in knowledge-intensive firms.

Interest in the role of knowledge as a source of competitive advantage was spurred on by Nonaka (Nonaka, 1994; Nonaka & Takeuchi, 1995) with his theory of knowledge creation and transformation, Grant (1996) and Spender (1996) with their work on the knowledge based theory of the firm and Zack (1999a; 1999b) with his discussion of the strategic implications of knowledge in knowledge-intensive firms.

After this, the notion of knowledge sharing and knowledge management in general became the focus of critical attention (Alvesson & Karreman, 2001; Wilson, 2002), particularly with regard to the role that information technology was able to play (McDermott, 1999; Walsham, 2001), the feasibility of sharing knowledge (Duguid, 2005; Marshall & Brady, 2001) and with the failure to take the political dimension of such activities into account (Patriotta, 2003).

Notwithstanding these criticisms, few would deny that knowledge-intensive organizations now exist or that knowledge sharing takes place within them. For example, more recently, Willem and Buelens (2007; 2009; 2006) have looked at the phenomenon of knowledge sharing in a variety of organizations, van den Hooff and Huysman (2009) have looked at problems of knowledge sharing from a KM perspective and Kimble et al have looked at the micro politics of knowledge sharing (Kimble, Grenier, & Goglio-Primard, 2010).

While some of the early pioneers have been prompted to revisit their earlier work (Nonaka & von Krogh, 2009) there has not yet been a systematic attempt to reassess the issue of knowledge sharing in knowledge-intensive organizations as a whole in the light of current technologies and organizational forms; it is this that this special issue of IJITM seeks to address.

Recommended Topics:
Articles for this special issue might include articles written from an academic or a practitioner perspective, case studies of concrete applications of information systems used for knowledge sharing, or articles that address more conceptual issues. These might cover the problems associated with sharing knowledge (either face to face or technologically mediated), the role that knowledge sharing plays in such organizations (through encouraging innovations, as part of a competitive strategy, etc) or the nature of the knowledge sharing itself. The common theme for all of the articles is that they should, like Nonaka and von Krogh (2009), attempt to place insights gained from current theory and practice within the framework of previous work in the same area.

Specific topics might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Knowledge sharing and knowledge management systems
- Knowledge sharing communities
- Knowledge sharing in collaborative work environments
- Knowledge sharing strategies and organizational structure
- Knowledge sharing within or across organizational boundaries
- Modeling of human knowledge processes and systems
- Social and political aspects of knowledge sharing
- Social software and knowledge sharing
- Systems design issues including stakeholder requirements and participation
- HRM issues related to innovation and knowledge sharing

Submission Procedures

All papers are peer reviewed. Prospective authors are encouraged to submit a short one page abstract to chris.kimble@euromed-management.com & isabelle.bourdon@polytech.univ-montp2.fr for feedback on the suitability of their proposed article.

Key Dates

Submission of paper for review: 29 April, 2011
Comments from referees: 1 July, 2011
Submission of revised paper: 15 September, 2011

Further information

http://www.inderscience.com/browse/callpaper.php?callID=1532

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