

Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Knowledge Leakage: Threats and Benefits

Susanne Durst, University of Skövde, Skövde, Sweden

Lena Aggestam, University of Skövde, Skövde, Sweden

The importance of knowledge and its management for organizations to stay competitive is well known both in practice and research. Talking about knowledge sharing as a critical KM practice, one can state that the development of ICT tools has given incredible possibilities to share knowledge faster and easier. This development has also helped organizations to improve their overall knowledge management. The increased need for knowledge sharing, regardless if conducted online or offline, has also increased the risk of knowledge leaking away. As a consequence, organizations are required to take it into consideration and find ways to handle this situation. Research concerning knowledge leakage, however, is still in its infancy.

Hence, this special issue has sought to draw attention to this under-researched but critical aspect of knowledge management and invited researchers to present their research findings in the field of knowledge leakage as well as related issues. This invitation also included papers received and presented at the 10th edition of the IFKAD 2015 - International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics in Bari in the corresponding track entitled “Knowledge leakage in organizations” which was chaired by the two editors of the present special issue.

In total four papers were selected for this special issue. These four papers provide insights into knowledge leakage from different angles and methodological approaches.

The paper by Tsang, Lee and Tsui proposes a knowledge leakage assessment model that is driven by the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to determine knowledge leakage risk in organizations. In a similar direction goes the paper by Durst, Bruns and Henschel that establishes the current body of knowledge regarding the management of knowledge risks, of which knowledge leakage is one. The paper by Aggestam provides empirically insights into knowledge leakage in supply chains involving small and medium-sized enterprises. Finally, the paper by Helio Aisenberg Ferenhof highlights the similarities and differences between knowledge leakage and knowledge spillover in order to allow a clearer distinction.

We hope that this special issue will contribute to a more systematic research on knowledge leakage and look forward to seeing an increasing number of published papers in this field of study.

*Susanne Durst
Lena Aggestam
Guest Editors
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