# Lectures on Knowledge Management

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#### DEFINITIONS: KNOWLEDGE

"The fact of knowing a thing, state, person;
A state of being aware or informed;
Consciousness".

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1973)

Knowing is usually thought to involve believing, though some say that it *replaces* belief, or that we can believe one thing whilst somehow knowing the opposite. Some think that knowledge is justified true belief.

"The application of skill or care in the manipulation, use, treatment, or control of things or persons, or in the conduct of an enterprise, operation, etc.".

Oxford English Dictionary

Data → PROCESS → Information
Information → INTERPRET → Knowledge

Data → PROCESS (use ALGORITHMS +
DATA STRUCTURES) → Information
Information → INTERPRET (use
HEURISTICS & ALGORITHMS +
REPRESENTATION SCHEMES) →
Knowledge

"The application of skill or care in the manipulation, use, treatment, or control of things or persons, or in the conduct of an enterprise, operation, etc.".

Oxford English Dictionary

#### identifying what knowledge assets a company possesses

Where is the knowledge asset? What does it contain? What is its use? What form is it in?

How accessible is it?

#### analysing how the knowledge can add value

What are the opportunities for using the knowledge asset? What would be the effect of its use?

What are the current obstacles to its use? What would be its increased value to the company?

#### specifying what actions are necessary to achieve better usability & added value

How to plan the actions to use the knowledge asset? How to enact actions? How to monitor actions?

#### reviewing the use of the knowledge to ensure added value

Did the use of it produce the desired added value? How can the knowledge asset be maintained for this use? Did the use create new opportunities?



The Internet expedites communication & computation

A new approach to the conservation and (rapid) deployment of the knowledge of organisations, expected to result in innovative, lean organisations.

The effective management of knowledge expedites solutions to problems by involving a number of different people within an organisation at different levels, and every participant can, if authorised, look at the output of others within the organisation. The management of knowledge serves best when it helps to access knowledge of successful and failed projects, best practice and biographical details of the participants.

- Knowledge Management A term which was coined during the early 90s to discuss why Japanese companies had achieved such a dominant position.
- The term signalled the shift from the *industrial society* of the early 20th century, with its focus on *land*, *labour* and *capital* to a *knowledge-based* society which emphasised the human capital of an organisation.

# COURSE OUTLINE

- 1.Introduction & Origins
- 2. Knowledge Work & Society
- 3. Corporate Learning
- 4.Innovation Management
- 5.Best Practice

#### COURSE OUTLINE

- 1. Coursework due date 28 April 2004
- 2. Presentation/Oral Examination: 3st May 2004

**Presentation** 10-15 minutes

**Oral Examination** 10-15 minutes)

Different metaphors to describe economic activity, productivity.

Consumption of chemicals: New products

Consumption of energy: New processes

'Consumption' of knowledge: New?

Different metaphors to describe economic activity, productivity.

Consumption of chemicals: New products

Consumption of energy: New processes

'Consumption' of knowledge: New?

Consumption & the management of consumed resource:

Raw material → Processing into finished

goods→ Delivery → Sales → Profit?

'Consumption' of knowledge: New?

Management

Consumption & the management of consumed resource:

Raw material → Processing into finished sevices/goods → Delivery → Sales → Profit?

'Consumption' of knowledge: New?

KnowledgeManagemen

According to management guru Peter Drucker, it was only at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (c.1895-1905) that management was <u>distinguished</u> from ownership in Germany.

- Georg Siemens, a leading banker of his time, asked Werner Siemens to hand over control of latter's near-bankrupt electrical engineering enterprise to professional managers.
- Andrew Carnegie and John D Rockefeller followed suit in the USA. The period 1895-1905 coincides with the rise of the modern movement.

The post-modernist equivalent in the industrial genesis of the Northern Hemisphere was during the period spanning 1920-1950. This genesis saw command-and-control structures introduced by the chemical giant du Pont, by General Motors - one of the pioneers of automotive engineering - and by the engineering colossus General Electric. Hierarchically organised enterprises emerged during this period (see Drucker 1988), coinciding with the ascent of post-modernism in the arts, literature, music and politics.

Computer mediated change management: Changes in the economy, the society and perhaps the world at large, are sometimes precipitated by advances in science and technology;

Scientific and technological change is sometimes made possible by the use of computer systems –digital libraries, electronic communications are good examples here.

Can we use computers to monitor (and control?) how change is effected?

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#### Classic Corporation and Industrial Society:

Frederick W. Taylor, a US engineer in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, suggested that an organisation can predict its output accurately from

- machine productivity;
- work processes; &
- <u>time motion analysis of individual workers</u>

THE WORKER WAS ESSENTIALLY VIEWED AS A UNIT OF PRODUCTION. ALL DECISION MAKING AND CREATIVE THOUGHT WAS THE RESERVE OF MIDDLE AND UPPER MANAGEMENT.

In 19th and early 20th century wealth was associated with control of energy resources. Knowledge and information were regarded as parameters of economic systems rather than as variables within them.

Economic systems were construed as energy systems wherein cause and effect operate continuously and proportionately.

Knowledge and information are, by contrast, highly nonlinear and disruptive.

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#### Post-industrial Corporation & Society:

'Senior-level executives [have] come to understand the economic power of knowledge' Huseman and Goodman (1998:211)). 'KNOWLEDGE RESIDES AT ALL LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION. THE KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION REQUIRES AN ACCEPTANCE THAT PEOPLE AT THE TOP, OR EVEN A GROUP AT THE TOP, DO NOT CONSTITUTE THE REPOSITORY OF ALL KNOWLEDGE. SOMETIMES THE MOST VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE CAN BE FOUND AT THE LEVELS WHERE ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS ARE CLOSEST TO CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS (*ibid*:211-212)

#### Post-industrial Corporation & Society:

The introduction of the prefix 'post' in *post*-modern and *post*-industrial, is usually used to indicate a rupture from the past. The American Daniel Bell and the Frenchman Alan Touraine coined the term 'post-industrial' independently on either side of the Atlantic. Touraine wrote a book entitled *The Post-Industrial Society* (1970) to be followed by Bell's more evangelical title *The Coming of Post-industrial Society* (1973). According to Prof. Gibson Burrell of the Warwick Business School, Bell talks about an *expert class* and Touraine about *highly-skilled technicians*.

(Burrell, Gibson. (1996). 'Hard times for the salariat'. In (ed.) Harry Scarbrough; pp52.)

The post-industrial society has emerged in a climate where multi-nationals move design and manufacture of goods around the globe with the deftness of ballet artists. The conventional wisdom of the post-modern age, that of mass production and well-stocked warehouses, has made way for technologies with idiosyncratic names: just-in-time or kan-ban, lean manufacturing, business process re-engineering, and the curious neologism knowledge management in the mid-1990s.

- •The term *knowledge management* is used to articulate the concept that knowledge is an asset on a par with the tangible assets of any organisation land, capital, plant and machinery.
- •Management involves the control of assets, ergo knowledge should be managed from its inception through its nurturing to maturity to exploitation and to ultimate obsolescence.
- •Knowledge may be considered intangible and yet it has a lifecycle: conception-birth-maturity-death.

	Post Modern Organisation	Post Industrial Organisation	
Structure	PASSIVE, STATIC	REACTIVE, DYNAMIC	
Products	DURABLE, DULL	DISPOSABLE, STYLISH	
Consumer Needs	STABLE	CHANGING	
	GEOGRAPHICALLY WELL DEFINED	FUZZILY DEFINED	
Competition	IDENTIFIABLE RIVALS: WAR OF POSITION	CHANGING RIVALS: WAR OF MOVEMENT 26	

PricewaterhouseCoopers: Building a Global Network

The Music Industry in a Digital Networked World

A Case Study of Knowledge Management at Cap Gemini Ernst&Young

Measuring and Managing Intangibles in Mobile Commerce

SOURCE: http://www.EUintangibles.net

NewsML: Creating Value through News Content Management

**Knowledge Net** 

Knowledge Management at Simens Spain

Cisco System: Building leading Internet Capabilities

Simens Share Net: Building a Knowledge Network

Monsanto: Leadership in New Environment

**GROUP DETAILS:** 

People <4 but >2;

**Co-ordinator** 

Topic of the case Study

SEND DETAILS TO RAFIF AL-SAYED

At csp1rs@surrey.ac.uk

The strategy paper (50% mark) – Presentation (50%)

- Brief description of the organisation;
- •Rationale for managing knowledge;
- •Manual & computer based systems used for KM
- •Reported successes or failures
- •YOUR EVALUATION OF THE KM PROJECT
- •Will you do KM the way you found it in the case study? Is KM a good thing for facilitating knowledge exchange? If so, why? If not, why not?
- BIBLIOGRAPHY

There are two major factors that have precipitated change during the second half of the  $20^{th}$  century:

- Competition: International & Domestic
- •Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)

#### International Competition

1960's	The rise of Germany and Japan as major competitors of the US in automotive and white goods;		
1980's	The rise of the Pacific Rim countries (& India) as major centres of manufacture, and of R&D		
2000+	The Internet-based 24-hour world-wide economy: <i>e-commerce</i> → <i>m-commerce</i>		

#### **Domestic Competition**

Old Players & New Players:

IBM, DEC (†) Siemens, Philips



Microsoft, SUN, Dell, SAP

Small-to-Medium sized Enterprises (SME):

SME's contribute extensively to economic and technological innovation

#### **CHANGE & MANAGEMENT**

## Information & Comms. Technologies (ICT)

- •Moore's Law: The number of transistors packed on a chip doubles every 18 months;
- •Computer and communications technologies are *symbiotic*: one facilitates the provision of another;
- •ICT is about data (1950s), information (1960s) and knowledge processing (1980s).

#### Information & Comms. Technologies (ICT)

Year	Processor	MIPS	Price (\$)	Price (\$) /MIPS
1975	IBM Mainframe	10	10,000,0	1,000,000
1976	Cray 1	160	20,000,0	125,000
1981	IBM PC	0.25	2,000	12,000
1984	SUN 2	1	10,000	10,000
1994	Intel Pentium	66	3,000	45
1998	Intel Pentium II	500	1,000	<b>2</b> 35

#### Information & Comms. Technologies (ICT)

Year	Host Computers on the (ARPA) Internet	Bandwidth
1969	4	9.6Kbps
1985	1961	56Kbps
1990	313,000	45Mbps (1989 data)
1995	6,642,000	155Mbps
1998	>10,000,000	1024Mbps
2000	?	2048Mbps

## INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### Key changes in which we transact:

Education	Distance Learning
Banking	Automated Teller Machines (ATM)
Retail	Point-of-Sale Terminals; Home Shopping
Entertainment	Virtual Reality
Business (Personal)	E-mail; e-commerce; m- commerce
Design/Diagnosis	Tele-presence
Education/Training	Virtual University 37

# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### Terminology and symbols of change:

- Realignment: Mergers and acquisitions
- Restructuring: Reporting structures; organisational ethos
- •Downsizing: Reducing work-force, investment, production capacity



Material gain, sometimes short-term, at the expense of the loss of the intellectual capital

# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### **Instruments for:**

ASSESSING organisational knowledge;

**DEVELOPING** and **FOSTERING** knowledge;

SHARING knowledge;

EVALUATING knowledge.

# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### **DEVELOPING** and **FOSTERING**

knowledge Within Organisations

Facilitate:

On-the-job training; Learning by doing; Job rotation; Career development Customer Satisfaction

Conduct:

research; Market research;

Organise:

Strategic Technology Study; R&D activities; External seminars & training;

Evaluate:

Projects; People.

Promote:

**Cross-disciplinary interaction** 

## INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### **DEVELOPING** and FOSTERING

knowledge across Organisations

Monitor:	Market activities;
	R&D activities;
	Technology
	developments
Network:	(at) Trade Shows,
	State-of-the-Art
	seminars; Technical
	Conferences;

# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

#### **DEVELOPING** and FOSTERING

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Facilitate:

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# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

# **DEVELOPING** and **FOSTERING** knowledge across **Organisations**

Knowledge Bottleneck: Where there are people there is not much new knowledge; where there is new knowledge, there are not many people.

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# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

**DEVELOPING** and **FOSTERING** knowledge across Organisations

Knowledge Bottleneck: People don't find it easy to exchange information with each other: for social, economic, technological and linguistic reasons; time, money are key factors.

# INTRODUCTION & ORIGINS: CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

### **DEVELOPING** and FOSTERING

knowledge across Organisations

Knowledge Bottleneck: Currently, it is not possible to exchange information in a timely, convenient and cost-effective manner.

Peter Drucker introduced the terms knowledge work and knowledge worker in the 1960's. The term knowledge management refers to the management of the knowledge of the knowledge-workers.

Maximise the Enterprise's knowledge related effectiveness:

- 1. Governance Functions
- 2. Staff Functions
- 3. Operational Functions
- 4. Valorization: Realising the value of knowledge.

Knowledge Management Handbook - J Leibowitz.

- •The term knowledge was usually used in the context of research and development knowledge based on theory and laboratory experience. Drucker, Nonaka and Takeuchi, and others have extended the scope of the term by including knowledge based on experience and based on practice.
- •The term *Knowledge work* was coined to distinguish this kind of work from *manual* work.

#### **Knowledge Society**

The knowledge workers, their managers, the owners of the enterprises, and the customers of the goods, services and information produced by the enterprises, are interdependent on each other. It has been claimed that these 'players', in their interactions, develop edifices of culture and a kind of a society: the *knowledge society*.

#### Knowledge Society

Culture: Shared Values;

Exchange System

Kinship structures

Society: Compliance – Punishment &

Reward;

Organised group of people

#### **Knowledge Society**

Organisational structures and interactions within the organisation  $\rightarrow$  Organisational Theory.

Information Processing within the organisation→ Psychological theory.

#### **Knowledge Society**

- •The knowledge society, like others, demands a system of recruitment, values and their transmission from one generation to the next, and some means of enforcement and discipline.
- The implication of the knowledge society is that there may be times when the society will expect the individuals to subordinate their interests, and sometimes perhaps their existence, to what may be perceived by the more persuasive members of the community to be in the wider society's best interests.
- •The management of expertise, the key asset of the knowledge worker, appears to be the central concern amongst those who have reservations about the whole enterprise of the knowledge society.

#### Knowledge Society

- •A society based on exchange of knowledge, based on structures that facilitate the exchange, and based on protocols for enforcing discipline and for rewarding achievements;
- •Knowledge Society: Knowledge of an organisation?
- •Do organisations have knowledge which is other than what individual members of the organisation have?

- •Individuals have knowledge: facts, rules, theories, beliefs; know-how, skills; meta-knowledge for criticising and innovating upon existing knowledge.
- •Individuals use organisations for physical and intellectual sustenance: for testing their knowledge and learning things new.
- •Organisations have structures for physically and intellectually supporting individuals.
- •Organisations can deploy knowledge, make it obsolescent, help in innovation.

- •Knowledge of the individuals permeates through organisations:
  - Through hierarchies;
  - Through matrices;
  - Through networks;
- •Knowledge permeates through these graphs (constellations of nodes and links) formal & informal mechanisms and processes.

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#### **Academia**

Pursuit of knowledge; Transmission of culture; Instilling *values*.

#### **Professional Institutions**

Validation of experience; Code of Conduct; Representation of Interest.







#### **State/Federal Institutions**

Protection of individuals;
Promulgation of order;
Regulation of organisations.

#### 'The' Market

Promotion of competition; Facilitates investment; Champions individual.

#### Can organisations learn? Organisational type

METAPHOR	SALIENT FEATURES
Organism	Mutation; Species; Competition; Genetic transmission; interaction between part & whole
Brain	Connectivity; Local and Global Interactions; Supervised/Unsupervised Learning
Culture	Ideology; exchange systems; morals; rules
Political System	Power distribution; Control of intellectual and material resources;
Autopoiesis	Autonomy; circularity; and self-reference; self renewal/self creation
Domination	Sub-ordination; Charisma; Rational-legal 57

#### Can organisations learn to learn?

Can organisations learn in an on-going way?

What are the main barriers to learning?

Are these barriers intrinsic to the *nature* of human organisation?

Can these barriers be *overcome*?

Does learning requires the ability to detect and correct errors:

- in relation to set operating norms?
- not only in relation to set operating norms but by *questioning* the operating norms?

#### Can organisations learn to learn?

- Learning by instruction;
- Learning by experimentation;
- Learning by rote;
- Learning by observation;
- Learning from examples;
- Learning by doing;
- Learning by analogy;
- Learning from mistakes and errors;

#### Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Cybernetics is a subject that deals with the self-maintenance and self-control of systems, both mechanical and organic, through a feed-back process. Cyberneticians also study the communication of information in such systems.

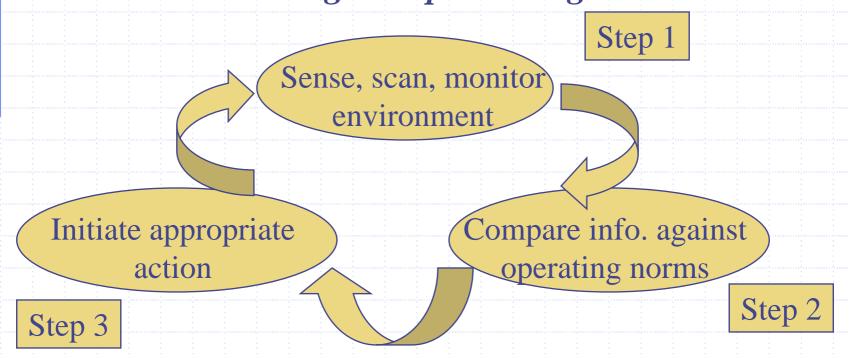
Donald Schon (MIT) & Chris Argyris (Harvard) used the principles of cybernetics to provide a framework for thinking about *learning organisations*.

#### Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

**Control**: In engineering it means to allow a machine to run within safe parameters and for the machine to operate efficiently.

**Feedback**: An important component of any dynamic system. The ability to take into account both the inputs and outputs of a system.

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control
Single loop learning:



Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Data -Process-> Information -*Interpret* Knowledge ← based on← Belief

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

*Qata* −*Process* → Information -Interpret -> on 

Belief

#### Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

#### Single loop learning:

The operation of a thermostat: The thermostat is constantly sensing, scanning and monitoring its environment (Step1); checking whether to (a) do nothing; (b) increase the heat; (c) decrease the heat (Step 2); the send an appropriate control signal to the energy source (Step 3).

There are preset operating norms that can only be adjusted through an external agency. For instance: <=5 Centigrade turn heating on; >=10 C turn cooler on. Independent of changes in the environment.

Sense, scan monitor

Compare

info. against

Initiate

appropriate

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning: Step 1 Sense, scan, monitor environment Step 2 Compare info. against Initiate appropriate action operating norms Step 3 Question whether the operating Step 2a norms are appropriate

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Single loop learning: In computing industry Step 1 Sell or lease faster & bigger computers Step 2 Initiate appropriate R& Institutional ownership D and marketing & operation strategy Step 3

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning: In computing industry Step 1 Sell or lease faster & bigger computers Step 2 Initiate appropriate R& Institutional ownership D and marketing & operation strategy Step 3 Why institutional ownership Step 2a & control?

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning: In computing industry Step 1 Sell or lease faster & bigger computers Step 2 Initiate appropriate R& Institutional ownership D and marketing & operation strategy Step 3 We should allow individual ownership Step 2a & control.

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Single loop learning: Apple's contribution Step 1 Sell cheaper &faster computers Step 2 Initiate appropriate R& Exclusive in-house D and marketing Software developmen strategy Step 3

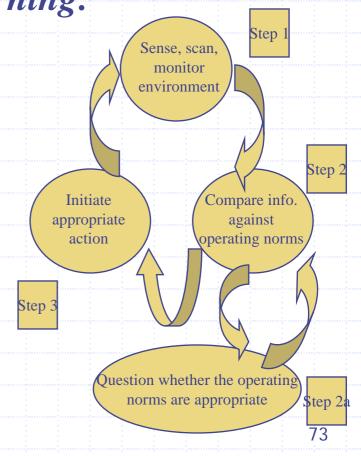
Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning: IBM contribution Step 1 Sell cheaper &faster computers Step 2 Exclusive in-house Initiate appropriate R& D and marketing Software development strategy Step 3 We should allow others to develop Step 2a Software for the PC

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning: IBM contribution Step 1 Sell cheaper &faster computers Step 2 Exclusive in-house Initiate appropriate R& D and marketing Software development strategy Step 3 We should allow others to develop Software for the PC

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Double-loop learning is like a thermostat which can ask the question: Why have you set my operating norms as X C for hot and Y for cold? Although the thermostat questions it still goes on controlling the environment

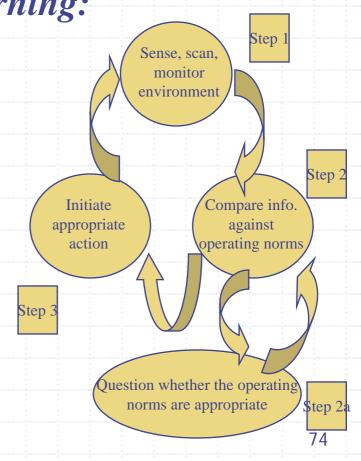


Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Challenge the norm but attempt to preserve order by noting *reference points*.

Questioning is important but has to ensure that organisation is consulted as a whole.



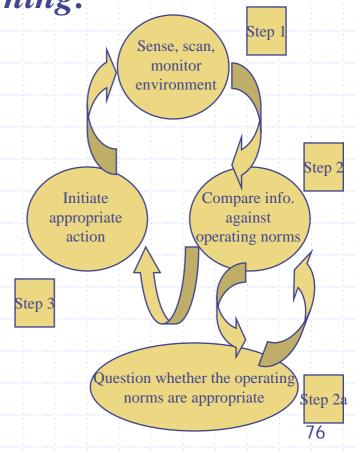
Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

# 

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Brain as a metaphor for organisations is very relevant here in that the animal brain shows such a *self*-organising behaviour.

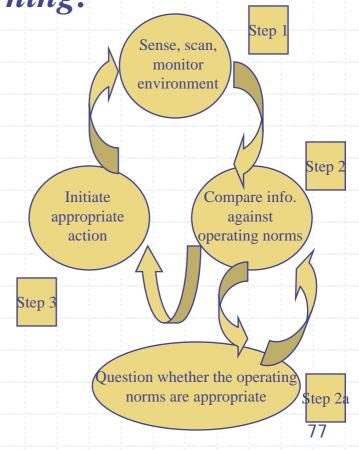


Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Defensive reasoning and the *doom loop*. (Agyris 1998:85)

Highly successful operatives, not used to failure create the information bottleneck – obstruct Step 2a.



Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

**Knowledge Management:** 

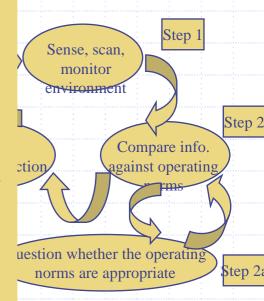
Best Practice (Extant knowledge); Reuse

Innovation (New knowledge); Novel Usage

Life Cycle:

Creativity (Inception) → Growth → Currency
→ Maturity → Decay and Obsolescence

Decay→ Pruning

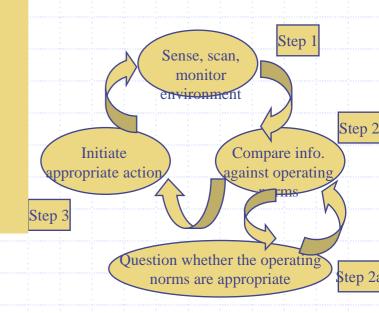


Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

Knowledge Management

(Creating & Sustaining plus Pruning)

Learning Organisations



#### Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Single/Double loop learning:

Defensive reasoning and the *doom loop*. (Agyris 1998:85)

Defensive Routines: 1. Hold back bad news

2. Amplify good news

3. Tell people what they want to

hear

Structures that encourage defensive reasoning:

a. Formal structures; Rules

b. Job descriptions

c. Groupthink  $\rightarrow$  we are the best!

# Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

#### **Knowledge Management:**

Facilitate a transparent flow of information;

Facilitate easy exchange of information;

Facilitate easy recall of information;

Facilitate access to forecasting, modelling and simulation systems

#### What then?

Allows an organisation to involve workers at all levels to share information;

Allows an organisation to share information about the inputs and reactions to its outputs primarily from the customers

# Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

#### Feedback on current operations and existing norms

Positive feedback: More leads to more; less leads to less;

Negative feedback: More leads to less, and less to more.

#### Who is it for?

People who are good at defensive reasoning;
People who cherish existing job descriptions, rules,
and cliques

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:
Sense, scan, monitor environments
Step 1

Step 2

Initiate appropriate action

Compare info. against operating

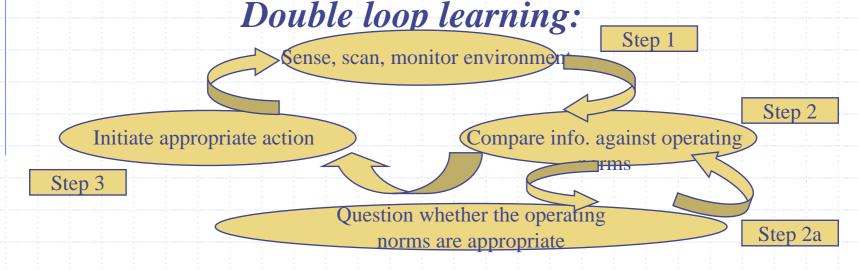
Step 3

Question whether the operating norms are appropriate

Step 2a

Support the emergent organisation: An appropriate Strategic direction and new pattern of organisation

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

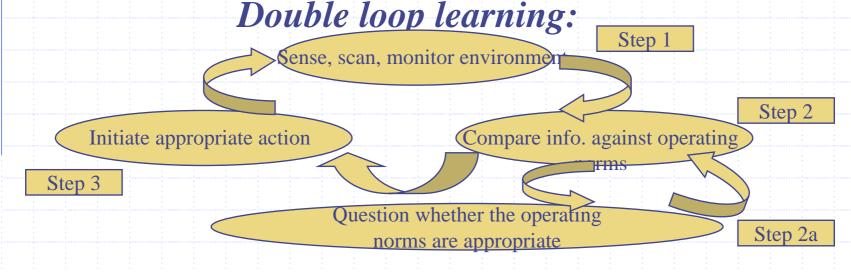


#### **Emergent Structures**

#### Life-long learning;

**Quality Movement** originated in Japan – everything has to be challenged: all norms to be examined

Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control



#### **Emergent Structures**

#### Life-long learning;

**Quality Movement** originated in Japan – everything has to be challenged: all norms to be examined

# Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

How can you run an organisation that is constantly changing without setting clear goals and objectives?

#### Cybernetics provides an answer.

Behaviour of intelligent beings is governed or guided by a sense of *vision*, adherence to *values* or *norms*. Otherwise **randomness prevails.** 

# Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

#### Cybernetics provides an answer.

Behaviour of intelligent beings is governed or guided by a sense of *vision*, adherence to *values* or *norms*. Otherwise **randomness prevails.** 

Reference points in a cybernetically controlled system that guide the behaviour of the system.

#### Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Cybernetic quality

Goals and targets reflect noble intentions

### BUT

Achievements of goals and targets is to be moderated by an understanding of the limits that need to be placed on behaviour (→ the reference points)

And

We have problems with this open system approach

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Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

**Cybernetic quality** 

Goals and targets reflect noble intentions

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# Information Flow

Recall

**Access** 

We have problems with this open system approach

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#### Can moorganisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

**Cybernetic quality** 

**Keep the strategic and operational dimensions in harmony:** 

- •TQM 'failed' (initially): Strategic objective which required constant questioning was interrupted by single loop 'operatives' in the organisations.
- •Continuous improvement needs a careful balance amongst what needs to be changed and at what speed.

Can moorganisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Cybernetic quality and Self organisation

- Structures to support change;
  - Structures that support risk taking (if your solution does not work we wont fire you)

Can moorganisations learn? Feedback and Control

Double loop learning:

Cybernetic quality and Self organisation

- •USA: Hard/fast objectives clearly stated;
  - Japan: Explore and understand different objectives; be prepared to change.

# Can organisations learn? Feedback and Control Double loop learning:

Cybernetic quality

Goals and targets reflect noble intentions

#### **BUT**

Achievements of goals and targets is to be moderated by an understanding of the limits that need to be placed on behaviour (→ the reference points)

And

We have problems with this open system approach:

- Distribution of power in the organisation;
- •Loss of control and expertise during the transition from old power structures to new power structures

- 1. Nature of Environment
  - 2. Nature of task facing
  - 3. Organisation of work
    - 4. Nature of authority
- 5. Communications System
- 6. Nature of employee commitment

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

John Seely Brown formerly of Xerox Parc has suggested that: The research department has to do more than simply innovate new products. It must design technological and organisational 'architectures' that make a continuously innovating company possible 'coproducing' technological and organisational innovations.

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

For Seely Brown, four key-points redefine what is 'technology', 'innovation', and, indeed, research:

- 1. Research on new work practices is as important as research on new products
- 2. Innovation is everywhere; the problem is learning from it.
- 3. Research can't just produce innovation; it must 'coproduce' it.
- 4. The research department's ultimate innovation partner is the customer.

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Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Document -> Lens → Project→ Image → Photorecptors – (Dry Toner) → Photocopy

Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Microprocessor Control of Moving Parts → Coordination; Cheaper Memories -> Collect Fault Reports & Relayed to Service Engineers

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Microprocessor Control of Moving Parts → Coordination; Cheaper Memories → Collect Fault Reports & Relayed to Service Engineers.

Remote Invocation Communication (RIC) Program → Expert System

RIC Knowledge Base: Performance data for the different mechanical parts of a photo-copier;

Rules for predicting breakdown

Inferences on the rule base and send a message to service engineers;

Scheduling of service engineer's resources

(Maintenance fees were a large part of the revenue)

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Photocopier → Facsimilie Production → Collating,
Binding, 1→2 sides, 2→2 sides; Print time
and date

A high-value, multi-functional, self-diagnostic SYSTEM

Any SYSTEM allows many-pathways of use and ABUSE.

Xerox engineers made the copier 'idiot proof' → designed the possibility of error.

Complex user manuals – written by the designers of the copiers.

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

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Xerox engineers made the copier 'idiot proof' → designed the possibility of error.

Complex user manuals – written by the designers of the copiers.

#### The DEMON copier

The user had to learn to operate a photo-copier!!!!!

20 minutes to clear paper jam.

Even for minor problems engineers were called

Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

USABILITY: Xerox researchers in other departments were videoed using the machines and the result was a video-nasty

Only then the designers changed their mind. Changed the design dramatically

Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

USABILITY: Changed the design dramatically

Instead of the paper manuals we had nice
GUI displays; error messages were
displayed in English with
extensive use of symbols.

Paper jams now take 1 minute to clear.

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Knowledge  $\rightarrow$  Abstract, concepts, reflection → Isolated, intellectual act → Research is an individual act Knowledge → Concrete, applications, practice - Collective, practical act -> Research involves a community of workers

#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

Research Methods in hard sciences:

physics, chemistry, mathematics,
biology

Research Sciences that deal with behaviour of the individual and that of groups psychology, sociology, anthropology

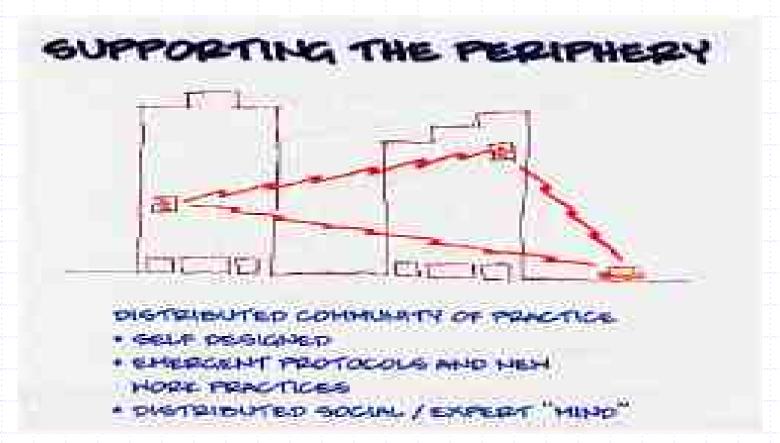
#### Learning to unlearn

www.creatingthe21stcentury.org/JSB3-learning-to-unlearn.html

Storytelling: Scientist's Perspective: John Seely Brown Learning to unlearn

The curious thing is that with these exponential changes, so much of what we currently know is just getting to be wrong. So many of our assumptions are getting to be wrong. And so, as we move forward, not only is it going to be a question of learning but it is also going to be a question of unlearning. In fact, a lot of us who are struggling in large corporations know first hand that the hardest task is to get the corporate mind to start to unlearn some of the gospels that have made them successful in the past and that no longer will actually work in the future

Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox



#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

#### A PARADOX IN KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

#### KNOWLEDGE IS:

- · STICKY--HARD TO MOVE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE FIRM
- · LEAKY-MOVES TOO EASILY OUT OF THE FIRM
- · INTANGIBLE-CAN'T BE EASILY MEASURED

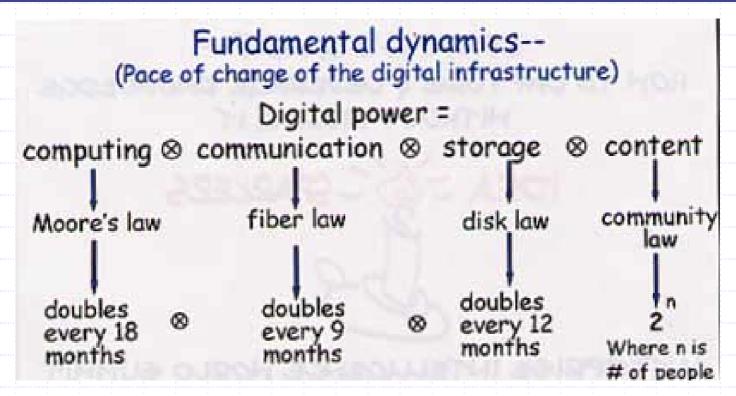


HOH—CAN GOMETHING DE MANAGED THAT IG BOTH GTICKY & LEAKY, AND ALGO INTANCIDLES

> Yes, if you can understand the dynamics of trust



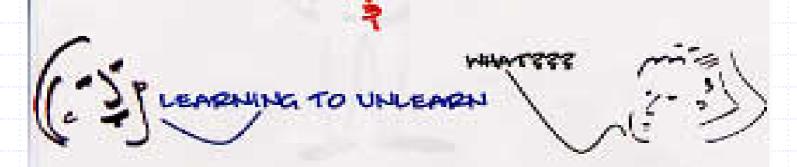
#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox



### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

#### KEYS TO SURVIVAL

- > LEARNING FASTER THAN YOUR COMPETITOR
- > SHARING THOSE LEARNINGS (KNOWLEDGE) RAPIDLY WITHIN YOUR FIRM
- > AGILE EXPERIMENTATION AND REFLECTION



### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox



#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

NARRATIVE: An account of a series of events, facts, etc., given in order and with the establishing of connections between them; a narration, a story, an account.

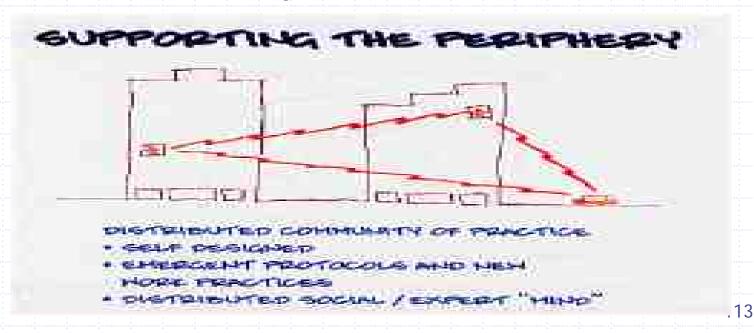


#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

ANTHROPOLOGY: The science of man, or of mankind, in the widest sense.

The science of the nature of man, embracing Human Physiology and Psychology and their mutual bearing.

The 'study of man as an animal' (Latham). The branch of the science which investigates the position of man zoologically, his 'evolution,' and history as a race of animated beings.



#### Case Studies in Corporate Learning - Xerox

#### **Anthropology:**

- •The science of man, or of mankind, in the widest sense.
- •The science of the nature of man, embracing Human Physiology and Psychology and their mutual bearing.

The 'study of man as an animal' (Latham). The branch of the science which investigates the position of man zoologically, his 'evolution,' and history as a race of animated beings.

#### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

The Japanese model, much talked about in the early 1990's as the model of innovation and self organisation, had a number of exemplars: Canon, Honda, Sharp and NEC.

According to Professors Ikujiro Nonaka and Hirotaka Takeuchi, Hitotsubashi University (Japan), these organisations managed to change by exploiting the knowledge held within their organisations – their *core competence*- and engaged with the post-industrial society.

Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Professors Ikujiro Nonaka and Hirotaka Takeuchi, Hitotsubashi University (Japan) have argued that an enterprise which is thriving, has a bright future, is an enterprise which is (almost) always **creating** knowledge.

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Creating new knowledge, or revising existing knowledge, requires the participation of the **KNOWLEDGE CREATION CREW** according to Nonaka and Takeuchi:

knowledge practitioners	front line employees – researchers and team leaders in different specialisms;	
knowledge engineers	middle managers in R&D departments	
knowledge	top managers of different	
officers	divisions.	117

Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Canon succeeded by focusing on 'a small multifeature product [copier] that could be used by anyone and produced at minimum cost'. This involved the knowledge creation crew at Canon leveraging knowledge.

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

With Canon's range of superb personal copiers, you can. Each model offers unique advantages in terms of size, features and functions − providing a wealth of choice when it comes to selecting your personal favourite. → Analogue



FC 100
The FC100 is a convenient,
easy-to-use copier for either
office or personal use. It
provides continuous high
quality copies, thanks to
Canon's unique All-in-One
cartridge concept.

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

With Canon's range of superb personal copiers, you can. Each model offers unique advantages in terms of size, features and functions − providing a wealth of choice when it comes to selecting your personal favourite. → Analogue



FC120

Easy to use and stylish, the compact FC120 has a 50-sheet bypass which handles all your copying needs effortlessly. Automatic and manual also exposure ensure a perfect finish for fine text and graphics.

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

With Canon's range of superb personal copiers, you can.

Each model offers unique advantages in terms of size,
features and functions – providing a wealth of choice when it
comes to selecting your personal favourite. 

Analogue
Copiers

PC890



The PC890 is a top-of-therange compact desktop personal copier that incorporates Canon's revolutionary single cartridge system and a 30-sheet automatic document feeder.<sup>121</sup>

# INNOVATION MANAGEMENT: LESSOI ... OM JAPAN

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

With Canon's range of superb personal copiers, you can. A digital flatbed Copier and Laser Printer in one compact unit, Canon's digital Personal Copier models deliver professional results. They give you enhanced laser output quality at up to 14 pages per minute, and require next to no maintenance. Some also include optional network printing, making them ideal fro small and larger offices alike. 

DIGITAL COPIERS



PC-D320 offers all the benefits of hassle-free, high quality copying, complete with the added advantage of digital efficiency. For convenient and clear copying.

# INNOVATION MANAGEMENT: LESSON ... ... OM JAPAN

### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Think differently: Create new ideas, unlearn old practices

**CANON:** 

Not an office copier BUT a personal copier
Design for a small space, not a large space
Produce disposable system, not repairable systems
Market to individuals not organisations
PC-D320



The PC-D320 offers all the benefits of hassle-free, high quality copying, complete with the added advantage of digital efficiency. For convenient and clear copying.

#### Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Think of the Fit as a downsized version of Honda's new five-door Civic and you won't go far wrong. It's another mini MPV with a cleverly packaged five-door body and racy styling cues such as those headlights (styled after those of a Ferrari 360 Modena). Much more interesting than the Logo it replaces, the Fit comes to Europe in 2002 under a different name - Jazz, which, Hondaphiles will recall, the company used for a defiantly quirky tallboy mini offered here in the '80s. In terms of design, the Fit is fairly straightforward. Key to its character are its whizzy, new, 65 mpg, 1.3-litre engine and the bright, roomy and airy cabin. The Jazz is not now to be built in the UK, as originally planned, but could nonetheless be the car that breaks Europe's supermini stronghold.

Case Studies: Japanese Miracle









Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

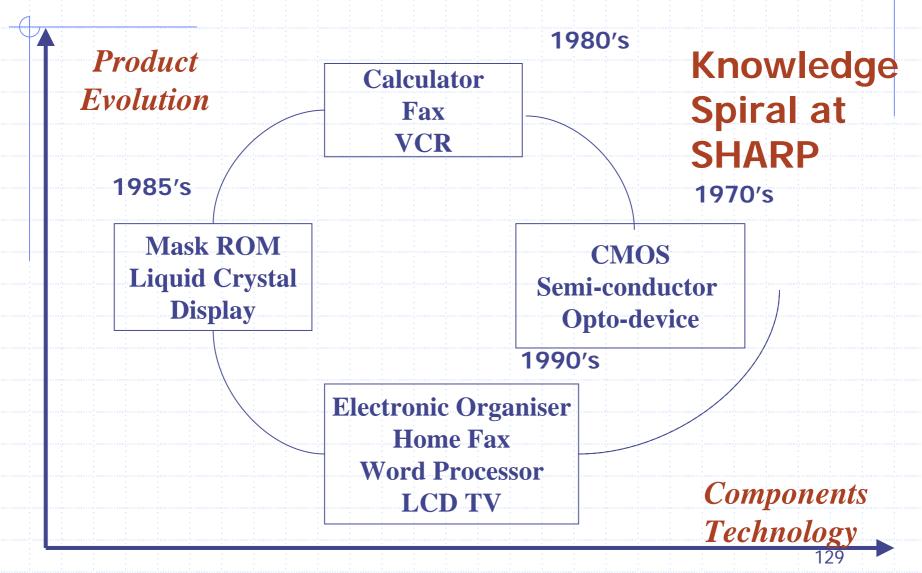
The knowledge 'creation' crew at Honda started to think about *automobile evolution* during the 1980's and started to design an automobile with more room for humans and less for the machine. New knowledge was required for an automobile which was short in length and tall in height, a concept that was named *Tall Boy*.

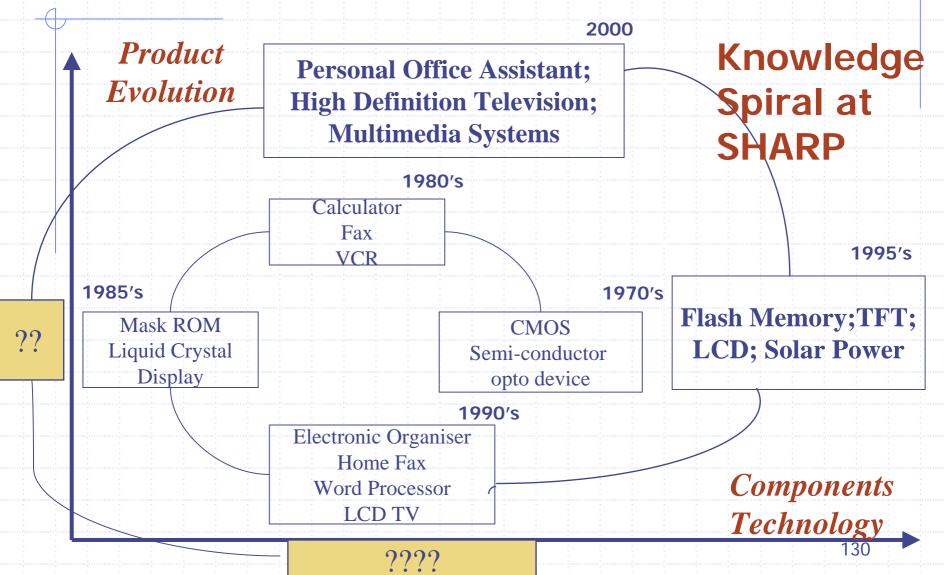
Case Studies: Japanese Miracle

Organisation	Core Competence	New Business Areas
Canon	Imaging, optics, microprocessor controls	Copiers, laser printers, cameras, scanners
Honda	Engines, power turbines	Automobiles, motorbikes, lawn mowers, generators
NEC	VLSI, systems integration	Infotainment, office systems
Sharp	Smart white goods	Multimedia, Personal Office Assistants

**Knowledge Creation Crew:** 

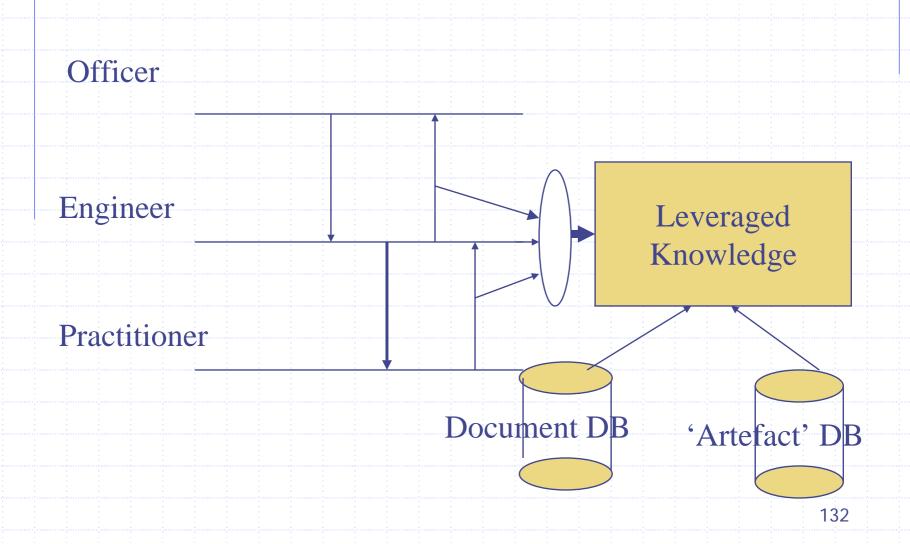
- •Is selected from different specialisms in the organisation;
- •Works at different levels of organisation undertakes research projects (PRACTITIONERS); commissions new research (ENGINEER); comments on new products (PRACTITIONERS); make executive decisions (OFFICERS)





## Innovation Knowledge Spiral at SHARP Products/Services **Scientific Progress & Technical Change** Social Attitudes 131

## KNOWLEDGE WORK & SOCIETY



- •Is their any way, managerial or technological, by which the processes and mechanisms that facilitate the permeation of knowledge be harnessed?
- •Harnessing knowledge sometimes could mean responding to or precipitating changes in markets, fashions, belief and values.
- •And, at other times harnessing knowledge may help in a campaign or struggle to contravene the belief and values of the individuals or other organisations

- •The key question is how the knowledge of an individual or a group of individuals impacts on an organisation?
- •There are a number of models in the knowledge management literature that help us to understand some of the ways in which how individuals or groups impact organisation (Seung et al 1999). Most of these models are based on a life-cycle analogy:

Creation - Growth -Maturity - Utility - Death

We will be studying one of these models due to Nonaka and Takeuchi.

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Two dimensions of knowledge creation in organisation: explicit and tacit knowledge

Explicit
Knowledge
(OBJECTIVE)

Knowledge of rationality (mind);
Sequential knowledge
(there and then);
Digital knowledge (theory).

Tacit
Knowledge
(SUBJECTIVE)

Knowledge of experience (skills);
Simultaneous knowledge
(here and now);
Analog knowledge (practice).

Two dimensions of knowledge creation in organisation: explicit and tacit knowledge

The transmission of knowledge in an organisation?

Before transmission starts, you must understand what you are transmitting and how will it be received.

- •Do I have the knowledge which will benefit others or the organisation? (Ontological question)
- •Is my knowledge in a suitable form to be transmitted or received? (Epistemological question)

Dimensions of knowledge creation in an organisation

Dimension	Type
Explicit	Symbolic
Implicit	Embodied
Implicit/Tacit	Ingrained
Tacit	Culturally acquired

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Two dimensions of knowledge creation in organisation: explicit and tacit knowledge

	Ex	pl	icit
Kno	w	lec	lge
(OBJ			

Articulated mainly as texts that use special languages of science and technology;

Knowledge which is largely formalized, consensual and public;

Knowledge available in informative texts, e.g., learned journals, technical reports and advanced textbooks, and in instructive texts, for instance, manuals, instruction leaflets.

#### Tacit Knowledge (SUBJECTIVE)

Articulated usually through speech using the special languages but suffused with metaphors, analogies and similes;

Knowledge which is largely informal, idiosyncratic and private; Statements, annual reports, inter-office memos, advertisements, product catalogues

Invention: Many paths available

Computing Technology: Choice between digital and analog;

Chosen Technology: Digitial → Sequential and Parallel

Chosen Technology: Sequential → Silicon vs Germanium

Chosen Technology: Silicon

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

Tacit Knowledge

Explicit Knowledge

To

**Tacit** 

Knowledge

From

**Explicit** 

Knowledge

Socialisation
Sympathised
Knowledge

Internalization
Operational
Knowledge

Externalisation
Conceptual
Knowledge

Combination
Systemic
Knowledge

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

#### Field Building

- •the workers build a **field of interaction**; the field facilitates the sharing of each others experience and their views about the organisation they work in –products, services, vision;
- •the workers engage in a dialogue
- •the workers translate an external situation into an internal model or simulation of the world;
- •the workers build a mental model and share the model

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

#### **Dialogue**

- the workers engage in a dialogue
- the workers share knowledge by using partial similarities between their rather different backgrounds → analogies
  - Horse is to zebra as dog is to -----?
- •the workers also carry over knowledge from one domain to another → metaphors (from the Greek meaning 'to carry over)
  - atomic system is like the planetary system

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

#### Linking Explicit Knowledge

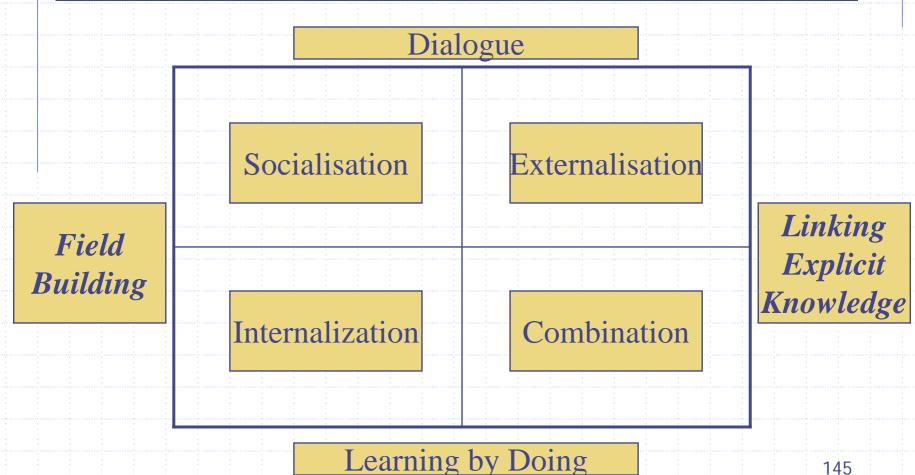
- the workers engage in using analogies and metaphors
- the workers start linking knowledge which has been articulated and knowledge which they have created → networking;
- the workers start creating new products and services

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

#### Learning by doing

- the workers start linking knowledge which has been articulated and knowledge which they have created → networking;
- the workers start learning from doing and constructing their implicit knowledge to face the new situation

Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes



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#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

Tacit Knowledge

Explicit Knowledge

To

**Tacit** 

Knowledge

From

Explicit

Knowledge

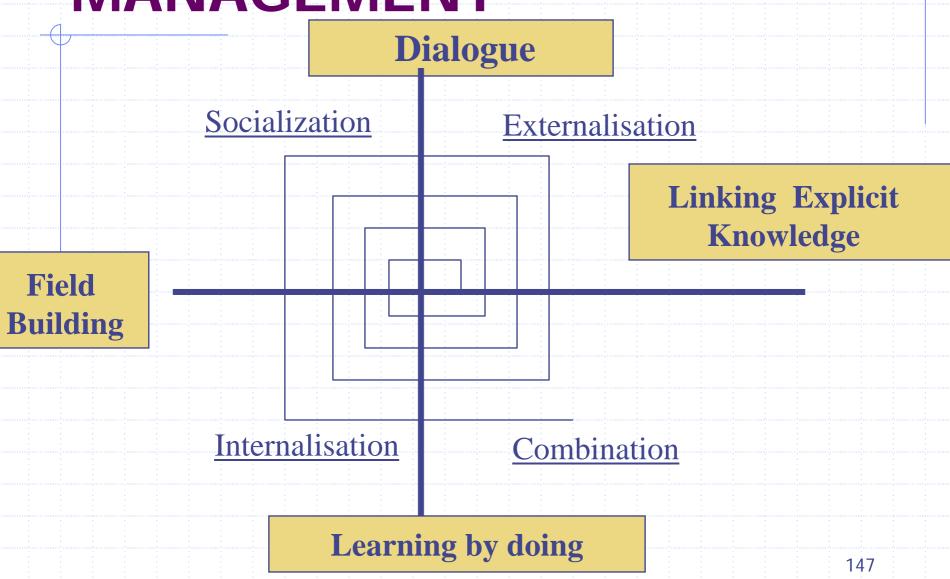
Socialisation
Sympathised
Knowledge

Externalisation
Conceptual
Knowledge

Internationalization

**Operational Knowledge** 

Combination
Systemic
Knowledge



Knowledge creation in organisations – A conveyer belt with external links?



Customers & Performers and Knowledge Transformation

**Performers** 

**Customers** 

Performers

ustomers

Socialisation

Externalisation

Internalisation

Combination

Customers & Performers and Knowledge Transformation

**Performers** 

**Customers** 

Performers

ustomers

Socialisation

Externalisation

Internalisation

Combination

### INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

**Cross-levelling** 

knowledge

Knowledge creation in organisations- A 5 Phase Model		
Phase	Requirement	
Sharing Tacit Knowledge	Self-organizing team; Creative chaos injected by the management	
Creating Concepts	Autonomy for the workers; Fluctuation and chaos may help	
Justifying Concepts	Top management to formulate justification criteria; Redundancy of information.	
Building an Archetype	Dynamic co-operation across organisations and amongst workers.	

Intra-organizationally: autonomy; chaos.

Inter-organizationally: dynamic interaction.

**Combination Knowledge:** 

Two disparate, very different and apparently sharing nothing in common technologies or sciences when put together lead to an entirely new technology/science.

Biology + Chemistry	Biochemistry;
Biology + Physics	Biophysics;
	Molecular Biology
Thermodynamics+	Automobile technology;
Rotary/Linear Motion	
Computing + Communications	Information Technology
Communications	152

Modern Management: Distinguishes between management and ownership → Asset/Labour Management.

Post-industrial society: Distinguishes between the ownership of knowledge and the management of knowledge

#### Nonaka & Takeuchi's Knowledge Conversion Modes

Process	Task	Methods/Techniques
Socialisation Tacit → Tacit	Share experience; Transfer skills; Explain models	Brain storming; suggestion boxes; best employees
Externalisation Tacit → Explicit	Articulate knowledge; concepts, hypotheses	Dialogue; collective reflection
Internalisation Explicit → Tacit	Transfer/acquire knowledge: by 'doing'; by teaching; project work	Experience documentation; oral stories
Combination Explicit → Explicit	Systematise knowledge; Evaluation; Testing	Document Management; creating, revising, archiving and pruning learned papers, technical reports, design documents

### Knowledge Creation Crew: Practitioners

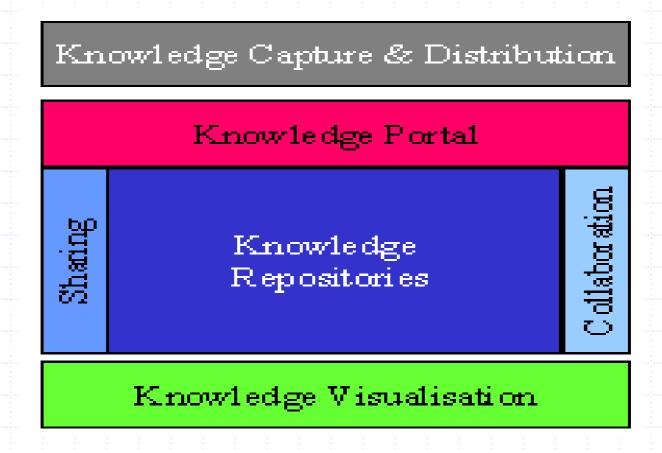
Practitioner	Task	Focus	Exemplars
Type			
Operators	Gather & accumulate knowledge	Tacit Knowledge	Auto-test drivers, Sales Force, Technicians
Specialists	Gather, accumulate & create knowledge	Explicit Knowledge	R&D scientists, software/design engineers, planners, market researchers <sup>155</sup>

### Knowledge Creation Crew: Engineers

Engineer	Task	Focus	Exemplars
Туре			
Middle	Convert	Explicit/	Innovators;
Managers/ Consultants	knowledge (explicit↔	Implicit	Facilitator
	tacit), synthesise		

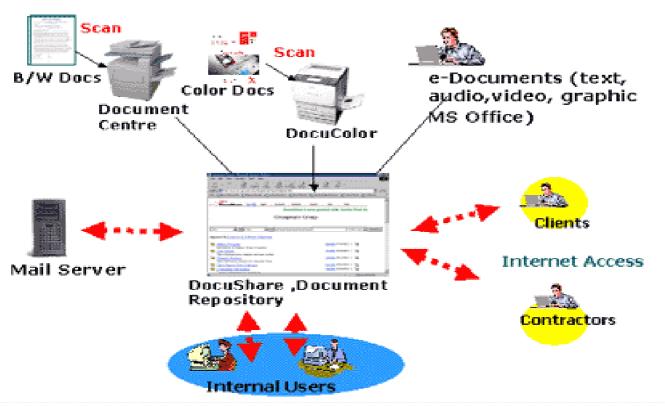
### Knowledge Creation Crew: Officer

Officer	Task	Focus	Exemplars
Туре			
Top-line	Create	Explicit	CEOs,
managers/	knowledge;		Venture
Investors	envision		Capitalists



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