



## Call for Papers *Knowledge Management Research & Practice*

# Knowledge Management and e-Research Technologies: to Codify or to Collaborate?

**Guest Editors:**  
**Will Venters, London School of Economics**  
**Elaine Ferneley, Salford Business School**

This special issue of *KMRP*, to appear in 2009, will focus on the role of technology within wider debates on knowledge management. Information and Communication technologies lend themselves to the capture, transfer and storage of data, and hence have, until recently, been strongly aligned with either objectivist view of knowledge management as codification of knowledge in databases, or a limited behaviourist view as communication and collaboration tools in support of social practices. The aim of this special issue is to explore in depth the relationship between social practice and Knowledge Management technologies (broadly defined) in particular questioning the traditional dichotomy between codification and collaboration through knowledge management technology. .

Our aim is to bring together research on the KM technology artefact, and research on social KM practices in order to enrich our understanding of social knowledge management technology. In particular we wish to explore and extend the traditional view that technology can only deal with explicit, codifiable knowledge. Instead we argue that, if knowledge is socially constructed, then the technologies that now shape our world must also be given due consideration within any debate on knowledge management. We would be interested in research which considers, for example, how technologies such as mobile phones, Personal Digital Assistants and Geographical Positioning Systems have fundamentally reshaped the milieu of our lives, and hence their implications for Knowledge Management. Expanding our focus we include debates concerning the use of technology in research (so called e-science or e-research) in which new computer systems are drawn upon in the discovery (or construction) of knowledge in the sciences and social sciences. We are interested in the emergence of Web 2.0 and social networking sites which are poised to fundamentally change the interactions between individuals, groups and organisations. Finally, as agreement on standards and data interchange formats are emerging so the vision of the semantic web is becoming a reality allowing disparate, heterogeneous data sources to be interrogated and leveraged from using and supporting ontologies and taxonomies – so technology is ceasing to be an externality and the possibility of a semantically rich, globally networked environment to support knowledge management initiatives is becoming a reality.

This special issue therefore aims to attract theoretical and empirical papers that consider the embedding of technology (in various forms) within the social practices and interactions of individuals, and the resultant effects on, and opportunities for, knowledge management theories and practice.

### **Potential Topics:**

We welcome papers from a range of perspectives, potential topics include ...

- Relationships between knowledge management and web2.0.

- The use of the semantic web in knowledge management initiatives.
- The growth of global information in society and its impact on organizational knowledge management practice.
- The use of technology as a medium of social networking, differing social networking models, social networking models that enable or inhibit knowledge sharing.
- The application of ontologies, or taxonomies and the emergence of folksonomies as collaboratively constructed taxonomies (e.g. <http://del.icio.us/>) for supporting knowledge management.
- The weaving of technology with narrative and storytelling.
- Social construction of knowing through technology.
- Social construction of knowledge management technologies.
- e-Science, e-Research and Grid technologies and their potential impact on collaboration and knowledge management within research practice.
- The role of e-science and cyber-infrastructure in scientific and social science knowledge.
- Issues of demographics, age, gender, sexuality and technologies role as shield or mediator within the design of knowledge management technologies.
- How technology supports communities.
- The use of technology to share knowledge around difficult and sensitive topics – to break down social barriers, engender trust and enable wider learning
- Philosophical perspectives on knowledge management technologies e.g. the role of knowing in artificial intelligence; the tacit dimension of knowing mediated through technology;

#### Key dates:

Deadline for submission	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2008
Publication	August 2009

#### Submission:

Papers should be submitted online at <http://www.theorsociety.com> and must comply with the *KMRP* Instructions to Authors at: [http://www.palgrave-journals.com/kmrp/author\\_instructions.html](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/kmrp/author_instructions.html) - especially the requirement that author names should not appear anywhere in the manuscript file that is submitted. Normal *KMRP* reviewing procedures and standards will apply. The Guest Editors will be happy to answer any queries from potential authors.

#### Associate Editors:

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#### Special Edition Editors:



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