Managing Information in Organizations

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Chapter 14 Business Themes

Link 14.3 Answers to Cloze Exercise 14.1

Knowledge involves the interpretation of information within the <u>CONTEXT</u> of what is already known. A <u>LEARNING</u> organization is committed to using knowledge to learn from experience. <u>TACIT</u> knowledge refers to knowledge which is difficult to put into words and <u>EXPLICIT</u> knowledge includes the documentation of procedures within which knowledge gained from experience is embedded and encoded. This requires a shared <u>LANGUAGE</u> of terms to provide the context for knowledge to be shared and used. Information technology provides the tools to store explicit knowledge and share tacit knowledge with others within communities of <u>PRACTICE</u>.

Social <u>NETWORKS</u> emerge through connections among individuals to share information. Analysis of social networks can show where the <u>COMMUNICATION</u> of information may be improved. Social <u>MEDIA</u> networks use Web 2.0 technology to create online communities where information content can be created and shared. The informality of social media networks poses a threat to information <u>SECURITY</u> as there is a risk that staff may unwittingly disclose unauthorized information in these networks.

Business <u>INNOVATION</u> is achieved by the creative application of knowledge. This may result in incremental changes to existing products or processes, or <u>TRANSFORMATIONAL</u> change, which challenges existing <u>BOUNDARIES</u> of concepts and processes. Different types of innovation target different aspects of the <u>BUSINESS</u> model. Business <u>INTELLIGENCE</u> involves extracting information from data to generate knowledge and facilitate business innovation. It requires data to be interpreted within the context of existing <u>KNOWLEDGE</u>. Reporting tools <u>PUSH</u> data, alerting staff when specified situations arise. Querying tools enable staff to interrogate and <u>PULL</u> data when needed. Both types of tool rely on clean and consistent data to be available for <u>ANALYSIS</u>.

Key performance indicators can be used to monitor the progress of the organizational <u>STRATEGY</u>. The indicators can be visually represented using <u>DASHBOARDS</u>. IT can be used to capture, analyse, and present data but <u>ACTION</u> needs to be taken in response to the information generated. The potential impact of taking, or not taking, action can be explored using <u>SIMLULATION</u> models. An example of a symbolic simulation is a <u>SPREADSHEET</u> which enables limited *what if* analysis on mathematical data. Serious games add a layer of animation over the simulation model, increasing the <u>RICHNESS</u> of information in the scenario.