
The Adoption of IT Technologies and Knowledge
Management Factors and their Impact on Knowledge-Sharing
in Virtual ELearning Communities in Saudi Universities

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OF THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

by

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Certificate of Original Authorship

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Signature of Student:



Date:

14.02.2017

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List of Publications

The following research articles were produced to publish some concepts and findings from the work undertaken by the author during the course of this PhD research study.

1. Alammari, A.M. & Chandran, D. 2017, "Impact of Knowledge Sharing Adoption on Universities' Virtual Learning Communities" in the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences HICSS-50 which will be held in January 4-7, 2017 in Waikoloa Village, Hawaii, United States. "A" Ranked conference.
2. Alammari, A.M. & Chandran, D. 2016, 'Knowledge Sharing Adoption in Saudi Universities' Elearning Communities" in The 22nd Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS 2016), held in August 11-13, 2016 in San Diego, California, United States. "A" Ranked conference.
3. Alammari, A.M. & Chandran, D. 2016, "Knowledge Management and Its Impact on Knowledge Sharing Adoption in E-learning Communities in Saudi Universities" in the 25th International Conference on Information Systems Development (ISD2015 Katowice), which was held in August 24-26, 2016 in Katowice, Poland. "A" Ranked conference.
4. Alammari, A. M., & Chandran, D. 2014, 'Populating Contents of the Saudi eLearning Objects Repository "Maknaz" from Information Technology & Knowledge Management Perspective', In 2nd Asia-Pacific Conference on Computer Aided System Engineering–APCASE 2014, Bali, Indonesia - 10-12 February 2014, APCASE Foundation, pp. 10-13. IEEE conference.
5. Alammari, A.M. & Chandran, D. 2013, 'The Adoption of Knowledge Management and Net Generation characteristics in E-Learning Communities in

Saudi Arabia', Vision 2020: Innovation, Development Sustainability, and Economic Growth, Vienna, Austria 27-28 June 2013, June 2013 in Proceedings of the 21st International Business Information Management Association Conference (IBIMA), IBIMA Publishing, Norristown, PA USA, pp. 818-823.
"B" Ranked conference.

Abstract

Knowledge management (KM) is relatively a new research area within Arab countries generally and Saudi Arabia in particular. The government of Saudi Arabia has placed a high priority on transforming its oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy (Alammari and Chandran et al., 2014). To do this, Saudi Arabia has begun to plan and invest in building knowledge centres in order to diversify its economy resources from reliance on natural resource production to a knowledge-based economy (Shin et al. 2012). Research indicates that the quality and competency of educational institutes is enhanced by cultivating the practice of knowledge-sharing among the academic staff. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education (MOE) has launched a national virtual open educational resources repository (OER) project called Maknaz, which aims to serve the strategic plan's work towards enrichment in learning resources and knowledge contents growth. Recently, Maknaz has been improved and released with a newer version named "Shams Platform". However, there is a need to populate Maknaz or "Shams Platform" with reusable digitalised knowledge contents and learning electronic resources (Almegren and Yassin 2013 cited in Alammari and Chandran 2016). This can be achieved through adopting the practice of knowledge-sharing within the academic institutions in order to create and disseminate all forms of knowledge contents which can be consequently deposited into the knowledge contents repositories. The study's main aim is to examine the key factors that influence the adoption of knowledge-sharing activities in Saudi universities' virtual eLearning communities. A conceptual model was developed based on existing theories and an extensive literature review. Mixed method research (quantitative and qualitative approaches) was employed in this study. First, a quantitative approach (a survey questionnaire) was applied to empirically test the

relationship between factors. Then, a qualitative study (case studies) was conducted to validate the survey results and provide more insight into the relationships identified. Finally, the study concludes and provides implications for research and practice.

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