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SPECIAL ISSUE
NEW ICTs FOR INTRA- AND INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION

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Aim and scope

The business value of new ICT-based tools and platforms (Web 2.0 and social software, Web 3.0 or the Semantic and 3D virtual worlds) is an enduring research question. This special issue provides new insights to better understand the mechanisms supporting the relationship between new ICTs and the existence or non-existence of organizational outcomes by analyzing the impact of new ICTs on the performances of companies involved in intra-and inter-firm collaborative innovation projects. There seems to be a consensus to treat innovation as new knowledge and ideas into new products and/or services, new technologies, new processes and new organizational forms or structures (Quintane et al., 2011). Recently, academic attention has shifted from the concept of closed innovation to that of open innovation, which involves sharing research, ideas, and/or resources among different organizations for the development of new technologies and products (Levine et al., 2013). Open innovation contrasts with closed innovation, where a company develops its products internally and markets them through traditional channels. Intra- and inter-organizational innovation, especially in dynamic environments, results from the collective capacity to share, combine and create new knowledge (Chesbrough, 2003; Chesbrough et al., 2008). New ICTs characteristics of rapid search, access, retrieval and exchange of information make this technology suitable for collaboration and knowledge exchange between organizational members. New ICTs play a pivotal role to support knowledge management processes (Lopez-Nicolas and Soto-Acosta, 2010). Based on the knowledge-based theory of the firm, difficult to imitate and socially complex knowledge-based resources are major determinants of firm competitive advantage (Nickerson y Zenger, 2004). As a consequence, extant research has demonstrated that how firms use technology is an important link to business value (Zhu and Kraemer, 2005)

New ICTs provide a virtual space where the participants can share information and knowledge through common platforms and electronic storage. These new ICTs facilitate interaction
between employees to execute the innovation process with users and partners from remote places (Meroño-Cerdan et al., 2008). New ICTs as such help promote the acquisition, creation and sharing of collective intelligence through social networks and communities of knowledge. Thus, new ICTs may benefit both open and closed innovation by bringing together partners and/or employees with diverse expertise and experience. However, technology enablers are a necessary, but not a sufficient condition, for employees to collaborate and share knowledge. Knowledge creation and acquisition rarely occurs if individuals do not interact (Alavi and Leidner 2001).

Beyond technological factors, existing investigation has recognized the importance of organizational factors in influencing Internet-based technologies adoption and use (Gu et al. 2012) and its effect on innovation (Soto-Acosta et al., 2014). It is believed that organizations’ survival and success depend on the effort and interactions of employees as they carry the skills and generate knowledge to transform new ideas into innovations (Valkokari 2012). Organizational factors may constrain or facilitate the implementation and usage of new ICTs for knowledge sharing. Social exchange theory argues that employees balance their level of commitment with the company’s level of commitment to them (Wayne et al. 1997). Based on this, Eisenberger (2001) suggested that employees contribute to firm success in response to the rewards or care they receive from the organization. Thus, for instance, adopting appropriate organizational factors (leadership, human resource practices, rewards…) may affect the organizational social climate that motivates employees to work together and share knowledge through new ICTs.

The editors of this special issue would be pleased to receive articles that contribute to the creation of a solid evidence base concerning the role of new ICTs for intra- and inter-innovation management. Empirical and conceptual papers focused on the role of new ICTs tools within the relationships between innovation and knowledge management practices are seemingly encouraged. Research papers and case studies must focus on the systematic, organizational management of innovation, and not the technical aspects and capabilities of ICT-based tools and techniques.

**Proposed schedule**

Submission deadline: 1 March 2016  
Papers reviewed: 15 July 2016  
Revised papers reviewed and accepted: 15 October 2016  
Final versions of accepted papers delivered: 20 December 2016

Submissions shall be provided via Electronic Commerce Research Manuscript Central System at: https://www.editorialmanager.com/elec/default.aspx  
All submissions will be subject to the regular double-blind peer review process.

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References


