



## LECTURE-07

**Knowledge Management** 

Presented By, M.M. Rakibul Hasan Faculty, CSE, IUBAT University



#### WHAT IS DATA?

- Data comprises facts, observations, or perceptions
- Data represents raw numbers or assertions

#### WHAT IS INFORMATION?

- Information is processed data
- Information is a subset of data, only including those data that possess context, relevance and purpose
- Information involves manipulation of raw data



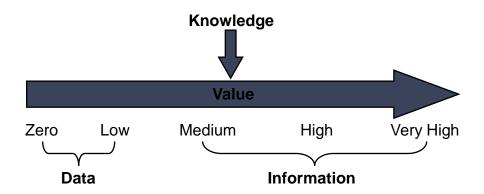
#### WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

- A justified true belief (Nonaka and Takeuchi)
- It is different from data & information
- Knowledge is at the highest level in a hierarchy with information at the middle level, and data to be at the lowest level
- It is the richest, deepest & most valuable of the three
- Information with direction
- Concepts, experience, and insight that provide a framework for creating, evaluating, and using information.



## Important Dimensions of Knowledge

 Wisdom: The collective and individual experience of applying knowledge to the solution of problem; knowing when, where, and how to apply knowledge



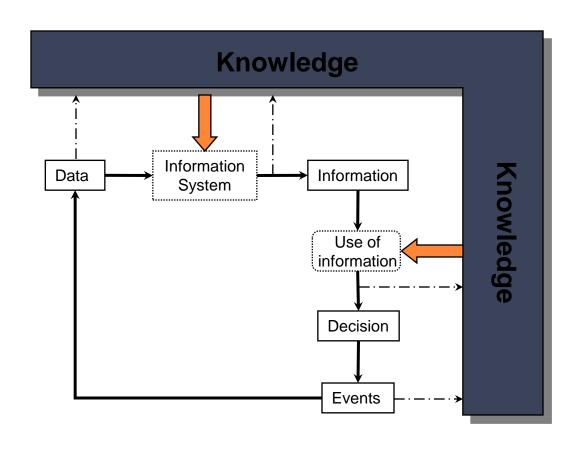
#### **Knowledge is a Firm Asset:**

- Intangible asset
- Requires organizational resources
- Value increases as more people share it

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#### DATA, INFORMATION, KNOWLEDGE AND EVENTS





#### SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

• Sources will Includes books, films, computer databases, pictures, maps, flow diagrams, stories, case studies or observed behaviour.

- Divided into 2:
  - **Documented:** books, flow diagrams etc
  - Undocumented: Resides in people mind



#### LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE

#### • Shallow knowledge:

• Representation of only surface level information that can be used to deal with very specific situations.

#### Deep Knowledge

 Human problem solving is based on deep knowledge of a situation. It that can be applied to different tasks and different situations.



- Procedural Knowledge
- Declarative Knowledge
- Meta Knowledge
- Heuristic Knowledge
- Structural Knowledge



#### • Procedural knowledge

- Describe how to solve a problem.
- Provides direction on how to do something.
- May include explanation and how to make inference.

#### • Declarative knowledge:

• Describe what is known about a problem. It tells us factswhat things are. Express in factual statement such as 'Smoking can cause cancer', 'Don't drink and drive'.



#### Meta-Knowledge

- Describe knowledge about another knowledge.
- Used to pick other knowledge that is best suited for a solving a problem.

#### Heuristics Knowledge

- Describe rules of thumb that guides the reasoning process.
- Often called shallow knowledge compile through experience.



- Structural Knowledge
  - Describe overall mental model of the problem.
  - The mental model of concepts, sub-concepts, and objects; and are they related.



#### KNOWLEDGE HAS DIFFERENT FORMS

### Tacit and Explicit Knowledge:

- Tacit knowledge includes insights, intuitions, and hunches
- Explicit knowledge refers to knowledge that has been expressed into words and numbers
- We can convert explicit knowledge to tacit knowledge



#### KNOWLEDGE HAS DIFFERENT FORMS

### General and Specific Knowledge:

- General knowledge is possessed by a large number of individuals and can be transferred easily across individuals
- Specific knowledge, or "idiosyncratic knowledge," is possessed by a very limited number of individuals, and is expensive to transfer
- Idiosyncratic: particular way of thinking



#### KNOWLEDGE HAS DIFFERENT FORMS

# Technically and Contextually Specific Knowledge:

- Technically specific knowledge is deep knowledge about a specific area.
- Contextually specific knowledge refers to the knowledge of particular circumstances of time and place in which work is to be performed.



#### KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

- Expertise can be defined as knowledge of higher quality
- An "expert" is one who is able to perform a task much better than others



#### CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EXPERT

- Peers regard the expert decisions as good decisions.
- Whenever problem arises, people consult the expert.
- The expert admits not knowing that answer to a problem. This honesty indicates self-confidence and a realistic view of limitations.
- The expert avoids information that is irrelevant to the domain and instead sticks to the facts and works with a focus.
- The expert is not arrogant about personal credentials, years of experience, or strong ties with people in power.



#### Types of Expertise

- Associational Expertise
- Motor Skills Expertise
- Theoretical (Deep) Expertise



## ASSOCIATIONAL EXPERTISE

In most fields: desirable for experts to have detailed understanding of underlying theory

- But not always necessary!
- □e.g., TV repairman
- □ can fix nearly all common problems
- □ but does not understand transistor theory or CRT/LCD/plasma display theory
- □ based on experience, rather than analysis
- May not understand the inner workings of the device
- □may not know how to proceed when encountering a new,
- previously unseen problem
- □may not be able to invent or design new devices well



## MOTOR SKILLS EXPERTISE

Motor skill knowledge is predominantly physical rather than cognitive

- Humans learn this type of knowledge via repeated performance (practice)
- E.g.,
- □Riding a bicycle
- □Kicking a football



## THEORETICAL (DEEP) EXPERTISE

Finding solutions to technical problems often requires going beyond a superficial understanding of the domain

- Must apply creative ingenuity
- Based on theoretical knowledge of the domain
- Cannot be solved via associational expertise
- Acquired via formal training and hands-on problem solving
- Very easily forgotten unless continually used, due to theoretical and often abstract nature
- E.g., engineers and scientists

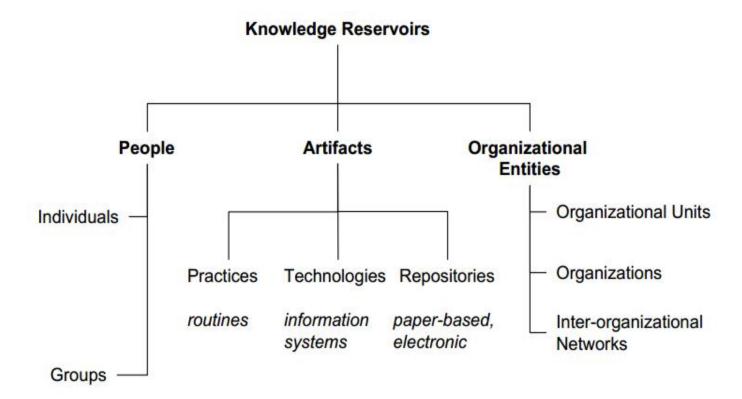


#### Types of Knowledge

- Simple knowledge focuses on one basic area.
- <u>Complex knowledge</u> draws upon multiple distinct areas of expertise.
- <u>Support knowledge</u> relates to organizational infrastructure and facilitates day-to-day operations.
- <u>Tactical knowledge</u> pertains to the short-term positioning of the organization relative to its markets, competitors, and suppliers.
- <u>Strategic knowledge</u> pertains to the long-term positioning of the organization in terms of its corporate vision and strategies for achieving that vision.



# RESERVOIRS OF KNOWLEDGE(LOCATION)



CoP (Communities of Practice)



#### CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOWLEDGE

#### Explicitness

• Explicitness refers to the extent to which knowledge exists in an explicit form (as opposed to a tacit form).

#### Codifiability

- Codifiability reflects the extent to which knowledge can be articulated or codified (i.e., made explicit) ...
  - □even if the resulting codified (explicit) knowledge might be difficult to teach to another individual ...
  - □e.g., it's hard to teach the explicit knowledge of how to fix PC problems.



#### CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOWLEDGE

#### Teachability

- Teachability reflects the extent to which the knowledge can be taught to other individuals (e.g., through training...)
- even if the taught knowledge might remain in tacit form ...
- □e.g., it's relatively feasible to teach the tacit knowledge of how to play basketball.

#### Knowledge Specificity

• Specificity refers to the extent to which knowledge is specific (as opposed to general)



## ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE

	1	General	Contextually Specific	Technically Specific
Declarative	Explicit	A book describing factors to consider when deciding whether to buy a company's stock. This may include price to earnings ratio, dividends	A company document identifying the circumstances under which a consultant team's manager should consider replacing a team member who is having problems with the project.	A manual describing the factors to consider in configuring a computer so as to achieve performance specifications
	Tacit	Knowledge of the major factors to consider when deciding whether to buy a company's stock.	A human relations manager's knowledge of factors to consider in motivating an employee in a particular company.	A technician's knowledge of symptoms to look for in trying to repair a faulty television set.
Procedural	Explicit	A book describing steps to take in deciding whether to buy a company's stock.	A company document identifying the sequence of actions a consultant team's manager should take when requesting senior management to replace a team member having problems with the project.	A manual describing how to change the operating system setting on a computer so as to achieve desired performance changes.
	Tacit	Basic knowledge of the steps to take in deciding whether to buy a company's stock.	A human relations manager's knowledge of steps to take in motivating an employee in a particular company.	A technician's knowledge of the sequence of steps to perform in repairing a television set.

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