

# Chapter 7

## Information Systems for the Management of the Organizations: Conceptual Understanding

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This chapter investigates the key concepts of information systems, as well as the role of information in the information management activities, in terms of supporting decision making by different organizations' managers in the literature of information sciences and business sciences. The information has become, in the global economy, a source of value for organizations, assuming a key role in contributing to the development of the performance of the same. The relationship of information management with business management helps the process of decision making.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

For several years, there have been numerous attempts to improve the flow of information in business. During this period, the watchword has been the information and knowledge, by which we are witnessing an important transformation business. We have gone from an economy based on industry and transport to an economy based on information and knowledge.

This dependence on information will increase in the coming years. Today and especially tomorrow the basic understanding of information will be as important as a few years ago it was the expertise in the fields at the age of agriculture or the basic industrial knowledge in industrial society.

Professor Lyman [2001] estimates that the amount of available information doubles every two years. In 2003, he estimated that the amount of information stored on computers, printed and recorded on optical and digital supports reached about of 8 exabytes, equivalent to 1 gigabyte for every inhabitant of the planet!

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## ***Information Systems for the Management of the Organizations***

Indeed the understanding of the importance of information as a resource in the management of organizations will become more important for managers than were the management models of industrial society. In the 21st century no Manager will be able to manage the business successfully without a basic understanding of information to support decision-making.

### **OBJECTIVES**

This article seeks to contribute to the understanding of the importance of information, while resource for organizations. Although organizations use different models of management, managers give different importance to information and the performance of the same is often short.

The goal is to discuss the relationship between the various terms and concepts related to information systems presented in the studies on the subject, in order to understand the common and differentiating features between them, to facilitate their development and implementation in organizations.

The analysis based on the information allowed the formation of groups of information systems for the management of the organizations. The results of which show the different specific uses, independent of the supporting technologies (pencil and paper technology or information and communication technologies), and which are crucial to the variety of terms and concepts attributed to information systems for the management of the organizations.

It is concluded that different denominations will always exist. So, it is very important for studies on the subject that understand and assimilate the characteristics presented by groups of information systems for the management, because it facilitates tracking and discernment, in relation to the variety available to organizations.

### **Approach Methodology**

This is an exploratory and descriptive study which seeks to clarify and organize the concepts on information systems for the management of organizations, presented in the literature of information sciences and Business Sciences. This type of study is recommended to propose research that clarifies concepts, establishes priorities that may guide future research etc. (Selltiz et al., 1981).

This is a proposal for new terms and concepts on information systems for the management of the organizations that allow their identity, the use and relevance in the context in which the words are inserted. The survey is characterized by literature search about their terms and concepts.

The initial step was the selection of authors who had published books on the subject and to submit at least one chapter for the object of study. From this first phase of the selection of authors, the following was determined by the frequency with which the authors are commonly referenced in studies on the theme – information systems for the management of the organizations.

Is a qualitative character with the intention to promote a reflection on the different types of information systems for the management of the organizations presented in literature.

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