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A taxonomy of players and activities across the ERP project life cycle

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Abstract

An important problem in probabilistic description is to understand who are the key players, which activities associated with enterprise system implementations are important, and when their effect is most prevalent across the IT development stages. Using an information theory approach, we analyze the fit between their importance, as noted in the current literature, and the experiences reported by a cross-section of 116 organizations that completed an enterprise system implementation experience. Our results suggest that the early literature- and case-based research on enterprise systems does not take into account the importance of several key variables. These findings provide guidance to managers on how best to utilize their limited resources by employing such factors at the stage in the project's life cycle when they will have the greatest impact.

Keywords

Systems implementation; Enterprise resource planning; Packaged software; Implementation of IT innovations; Critical success factors; Change management

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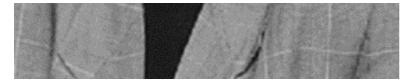
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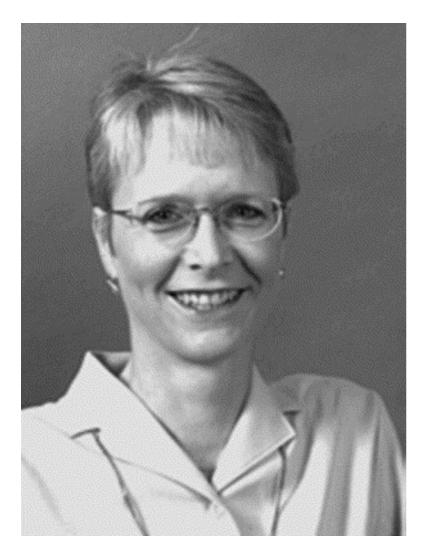
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Toni M. Somers is an associate professor in the Department of Information Systems and Manufacturing, School of Business Administration at Wayne State University. She received her MBA from Bowling Green State University and PhD from the University of Toledo. She has published articles in *Production, Manufacturing, Operations Management*, and *Management Information Systems* journals, including the *Journal of Management Information Systems, Production and Operations Management Journal, International Journal of Operations and Production Management, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, IEEE Transactions on Reliability, European Journal of Operational Research, Manufacturing Review*, and *Journal of Manufacturing Systems*. Her research focuses on end-user training, enterprise systems and service quality.



Klara G. Nelson is an associate professor in the Department of Information and Technology Management, John H. Sykes College of Business at the University of Tampa. She received her MBA and PhD from the Florida State University. She has published articles in the *Journal of Global Information Management* and *European*

Journal of Operational Research. She also regularly presents her work at conferences including DSI and AMCIS. Her research interests include implementation of ERP systems, IT disaster planning, telecommuting, and data quality management as well as cross-cultural issues in IT.

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