

# **Knowledge Management and Intellectual capital: Establishing a Field of Practice**

Per Nikolaj Bukh  
Karina Skovvang Christensen  
Jan Mouritsen

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# Preface

It has become quite clear by now that knowledge is a top priority and that the global economy is changing. This affects the competitive environment of the companies and generates requirements for new management methods and tools. Thus, knowledge causes changes and at the same time it creates the need for changes within companies. This trend is observed in the media, among managers as well as in research publications. A general term for these new management methods is *knowledge management*. It may be difficult to get an overview of what the term covers since it sometimes covers brand-new techniques and methods and sometimes well-known management tools applied in new ways and often in new combinations.

This book concerns knowledge management, which is a field of both research and practice. These years the field is in the process of establishment. Our book is partly an account of the current development and partly insight into the variety of problems and methods related to this field identified not only by us but also by other researchers, as will be clear from the contributions of the book. Their contributions either provide a specific angle or give concrete examples of companies working with knowledge management.

The book is written for people who are interested in knowledge management. Even though we have made an effort to show the variety of knowledge management problems and methods, the overall message is still that knowledge management is a perspective on management. We claim that knowledge management is neither a technological solution nor an isolated task for the personnel department. It is more about inter-relating management domains and subsequently make the right decisions.

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Per Nikolaj Bukh, Karina Skovvang Christensen & Jan Mouritsen