

Mini Literature Analysis on Information Technology Definition

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Abstract

Experience of authors highlights a lack of generally accepted definition of information technology, between scholars and in their research reports. In this study, authors aim to review information technology studies to conclude a comprehensive definition to fill the mentioned gap in this part of knowledge.

Keywords: Information technology, Research, New scholars.

1. Introduction

In order to study information technology, it is absolutely essential to define information technology, as well as to identify and investigate the nature of information technology as a new clue for researchers. Within the literature of information technology, there is not any generally accepted information technology definition, since lots of definitions of information technology have been used in different studies.

2. Literature review

In 1995, information technology was defined as computer software and hardware solutions that provide support of management, operations, and strategists in organizations (Thong & Yap 1995). Thong and Yap (1995) state that the goal of having information technology (with all computer applications like MRP/EDI, CAM/CAD) is increasing productively of a cooperation. Two years later, Boar (1997) defines information technology as “those technologies engaged in the operation, collection, transport, retrieving, storage, access presentation, and transformation of information in all its forms ...”. Also information technology could be regard as technological aspect of systems of information as it is reported by Hollander et al (1999), information technology is aimed for creation of computer-based systems of information by using computer system in an organization (Sarosa & Zowghi, 2003). Moreover, with looking to the term of business relationships, in 2002, Carr & Smeltzer (2002) explained information technology as the use of automated purchasing systems, supplier links through electronic data interchange, computer-to-computer links with key suppliers and finally systems of information. One year later, in a study by Sarosa & Zowghi (2003) on information technology in Indonesia, information technology was explained as “all the technology that is used by an organization to collect, process, and disseminate information in all its form. Therefore, the component of information technology will include hardware (scanner, printer, computer, etc), software (operating systems, application development language, office application, etc.), and”. According to another scholar (Attaran 2003) “Information technology is defined as capabilities offered to organizations by computers, software applications, and telecommunications to deliver data, information, and knowledge to individuals and processes”. Besides that, information technology can be defined as recently it is stated by Tan et al. (2009) as application of Information and Communication Technologies tools including computer network, software and hardware required for internet connection. Based on this review and align with aforementioned views, term information technology will cover wide range of information processing and computer application in organizations. It will cover systems of information, Internet, information and communication related technologies, and their infrastructure including computer softwares, networks and hardwares, which processes or transmit information to enhance the effectiveness of individuals and organizations. However, term information technology also includes any computer application and required packages of hardwares, Computer Aided Manufacturing, Computer Aided Design, Electronic Data Interchange and Enterprise Resource planning that positively affects the productivity of cooperation.

3. Conclusion

For conclusion, in this study an information technology was explained and defined to help scholars to cover the multiplicity of this term. This study can help new researchers and young scholars to understand terminology of professional information technology studies.

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