8-5-2011

A contribution to the development of a philosophical foundation for the data information knowledge wisdom hierarchy

Judith Pinn Carlisle
University of Michigan-Flint, carlislj@umflint.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2011_submissions

Recommended Citation
http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2011_submissions/474

This material is brought to you by AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). It has been accepted for inclusion in AMCIS 2011 Proceedings - All Submissions by an authorized administrator of AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). For more information, please contact elibrary@aisnet.org.
A contribution to the development of a philosophical foundation for the data information knowledge wisdom hierarchy

Judith Pinn Carlisle
University of Michigan-Flint
carlislj@umflint.edu

ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to establish a philosophical basis for the investigation into a flaw of the data information knowledge wisdom (DIKW) hierarchy. This flaw is typified by the requirement that knowledge be used to differentiate data from information prior to the hierarchy's own formation of knowledge. The DIKW hierarchy underlies much of the knowledge management (KM) research. However, while applications of the hierarchy have been examined extensively, the validity of the hierarchy itself has not been much undertaken. This paper illustrates that the analytic/synthetic distinction, as well as consideration of a priori and a posteriori knowledge, will contribute to the development of a philosophical framework via which the hierarchy itself might be examined. Using these concepts, the process of information formation and the hierarchical flaw are examined. Finally, the paper addresses how its resolution might be used in conjunction with various KM research programs.

Keywords

Knowledge management, knowledge management system, KMS, data, information, knowledge, wisdom, philosophical foundations, analytic/synthetic distinction.