

≈ SUMMARY ≈

**ORGANISATIONAL INNOVATION AUDITS:  
A TYPOLOGY OF THEORIES WITH SOME PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS**

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**Principal Topic**

Few managers will dispute that innovation is both key to survival and a precursor to wealth creation, yet many organisations are not good at it or do not even know where to begin. Literature suggests that the innovation audit is a good starting point, as it provides organisations with a reviewing mechanism of how effectively they are able to deliver the level of innovation necessary to create new products, new services and new ways of undertaking activities (Drummond and Ensor, 2001).

In recent years a number of models for auditing innovation have been developed. These vary in scope and complexity from simple Internet surveys to comprehensive frameworks that assess performance in innovation management.

Using desk research, this paper firstly determines what the requirements for a good innovation audit are, then continues to identify the limitations of a few contemporary innovation auditing tools. It finally proposes a new and improved framework, the Systemic Value Innovation Audit (SVIA), which meets the determined requirements for good innovation auditing tools. The SVIA builds upon existing theory and other auditing tools and uniquely identifies and covers the three main themes of 1) assessing present and recent past performance in innovation; 2) assessing the current state of institutionalisation of innovation within the organisation; and 3) predicting future performance in innovation based on past and current innovation strategy.

**Methodology/Key Propositions**

Because of the conceptual nature of this project the research methodology consists entirely of desk research of academic journals and texts, as well as Internet resources. Secondary data was collected for the purpose of establishing a clear set of essential requirements for an effective innovation audit tool, and also for facilitating a comparison and critique of a number of popular innovation assessment tools. Armed with the insights gained from this exercise, the author was able to propose a new and improved framework that can be further developed into an effective and practical tool for assessing innovation within organisations.

**Results and Implications**

The topic of assessing the state of innovation within organisations has received much attention in the past and numerous models and tools have been developed for this purpose. It is the author's opinion, however, that many of the publicly available tools lack in one or more areas and that the proprietary tools are not available for scholarly critique or general usage, unless when paid for. The outcome of this research will directly contribute to the existing body of knowledge in this field and will furthermore provide managers with a freely available framework that they can confidently use for developing true and complete assessments of innovation within their organisations.

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