

## Chapter 5

# Usage of TB in Practice

### ABSTRACT

*This chapter compares the universal TB model with the previous TB interpretation discussed in the first half of the book. Special attention is devoted to 19 selected TB properties ranging from adaptability to universality. Furthermore, tangible results follow in form of potential implications to business administration. Namely, information and knowledge management and information technologies are considered. In the area of information management, a generic time bank information management framework is outlined. In the scope of knowledge management, the function of TB is compared with the phenomenon known as communities of practice. Finally, co-productive behavior of the TB related to open source communities are depicted in the area of information technologies.*

### SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS: THE COMPARISON

This sub-chapter is aimed at confronting the system characteristics of previous TB approaches with the new universal approach. By previous approaches, the original nine types described in taxonomy chapter are meant. The characteristics are listed below and for each one there is a short description.

## **Accessibility**

### **Previous Approach**

This TB concept is quite accessible in its essence, which proceeds from the basic idea of being a tool for people and organizations to facilitate co-production. The information about how system performs can be usually obtained two ways: either by personal experience witnessing a TB in operation and adopting a pre-existing concept, an approach which can be hardly called conceptual or systemic, or by consulting an idea for a TB with a professional in the area who can provide training and advise. The latter is a much more effective approach, but unfortunately such professionals are present only in countries where the TB concept has been strongly developed.

### **Universal Approach**

As discovered in the breakdown of existing systems, the new system is very simple and can be included in any learning material. This would provide explicit knowledge anywhere in very vivid way, thus making it accessible and understandable even without the presence of an expert.

## **Adaptability**

### **Previous Approach**

Adaptation is a must within a TB. It must be able to adapt to local conditions in order to work. This adaptation may be tricky if the only information available is about one of the aforementioned approaches and if the target situation is very specific.

### **Universal Approach**

As simple as possible, containing only the main essential elements, and can thus be adapted easily.

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