

# **Human Capital Management in the Wandering Context of Events – Challenges for the Managerial Staff**

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# Chapter 6

## BENEFITS AND THREATS OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SUPPORTED WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ALGORITHMS FROM THE END USER'S PERSPECTIVE

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### 6.1. Introduction

In the previous two chapters, the subject of interest were virtualization and digitalization of the work environment in various forms. Two of the issues raised were artificial intelligence and the importance of knowledge in modern organizations. In this chapter, attention was focused on their combination from the management perspective. The basic reason is that the creation and development of solutions aimed at the implementation of artificial intelligence (AI), and in particular knowledge management (KM) processes, is the main and dynamically developing trend in various sectors of the economy (Landeta Echeberria, 2022; Osuszek, Stanek, and Twardowski, 2016). Based on the bibliometric analysis carried out in 2021, it was also proved that there is a link between digital innovation and knowledge management systems (Di Vaio, Palladino, Pezzi, and Kalisz, 2021). Therefore, many scientists representing various disciplines conduct research aimed at analyzing individual aspects of the above-mentioned phenomenon. One of the key problems of this trend is the social consequences of the widespread use of AI in KM.

In connection with the above, **the goal of this chapter** was to present the benefits and threats of knowledge management supported with artificial intelligence algorithms from the end user's perspective. The intention of indirect research was also to determine whether the representatives of Generation Z, referred to as the digital generation, are aware of the risks associated with the new technological developments. To reach the goal and realize the subsidiary research intention, this chapter was constructed in the following way. Firstly, the author discussed

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certain theoretical foundations for the concept of Generation Z and AI solutions in knowledge management adopted in the study. The next section describes the empirical methodics of research performed by the author. Then the most important research findings were presented and final conclusions formulated. At this point, it is worth mentioning that on the basis of the results obtained on the selected AI-aided knowledge management tools, the key importance of simplicity, intuitiveness and usability of solutions in the opinion of end-users was identified. There were also noted gaps in users' knowledge concerning the consequences of cyber-attacks on personal security, important from the point of view of the security management of knowledge management systems. Hence, this chapter should be of interest to entities involved in the protection of data being assets of employees and organizations.

## **6.2. Theoretical foundations for the concept of Generation Z and AI solutions in knowledge management**

As signaled in the title of this section, the subject of the considerations was first Generation Z, followed by discussion of the problems related to knowledge management.

According to numerous studies (see Table 6.1), Generation Z, i.e. people born after 1995, can be considered a digital generation with the competencies necessary to use the latest achievements in knowledge management. The indicated features are observed in this generation, regardless of the education and economic sector in which its members operate, e.g. similar results were obtained from the military sector (Kupczyk, Rupa, Gross-Gołacka, and Mańkowska, 2021).

**Table 6.1.** Features of Generation Z from the perspective of the labor market

Most of Generation Z:	Torocsik, Szucs, Kehl (2014)	Williams (2015)	Lyons, Lavelle, Smith (2017)	Dolot (2018)	Bateh (2018)
• have knowledge of foreign languages			X	X	
• have knowledge of computer programs supporting professional tasks		X	X	X	
• prefer telework			X		
• switch between the virtual and real world, which they perceive as complementary	X	X		X	X
• source and check the information they need in the Internet		X		X	X
• quickly share information or express opinions mostly via a variety of communication devices or social media (also anonymously)	X	X		X	X
• thanks to apps support multitasking				X	

Source: own work based on (Bateh, 2018; Dolot, 2018; Lyons, Lavelle, and Smith, 2017; Torocsik, Szucs, and Kehl, 2014; Williams, 2015).

Naturally, there are also critical studies pointing to a large group of the NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) within Generation Z, characterized by the lack of involvement in the two main areas of social life, namely education and work. It is worth noting, however, that the NEET subgroup rate their competencies in the use of the Internet highest (but they use it mostly for entertainment and spending free time), and at their the lowest level their professional qualifications (Czainska, 2019; Wiśniewska, Wiśniewski, and Szydło, 2019).

Regarding people oriented at education and employment, it is worth mentioning that the digital competencies of this generation are in line with the knowledge management strategy of most contemporary organizations, especially strategies integrating solutions based on human knowledge with artificial intelligence algorithms (Abualoush, Bataineh, and Alrowwad, 2018; Al Mansoori, Salloum, and Shaalan, 2021; Balcerzyk, 2021; Batko, 2021; Liebowitz, 2001; Osuszek and Stanek, 2021).

In connection with the subject of this study, it was assumed that knowledge is an organized set of information along with the rules for interpreting it, based on the sequence:

signs (+ syntax) give data (+ context) give information (+ structure)  
give knowledge.

It should be remembered that the transition from data to knowledge is not abrupt and continuous (Jemielniak and Koźmiński, 2012). Therefore, the focus was on the process approach to knowledge management (Karadsheh, Mansour, Alhawari, Azar, and El-Bathy, 2009; Liebowitz, 1999), in which four main synthetic problem areas related to the circulation of knowledge in the organization were distinguished, namely (Wyrozębski, 2014):

- 1) identifying and locating knowledge, i.e. identifying the organization's needs in terms of knowledge and indicating the sources of their satisfaction;
- 2) knowledge gathering, i.e. all activities aimed at acquiring, evaluating, processing, preparing for transfer, storing and securing knowledge;
- 3) knowledge transfer, i.e. action taken to deliver the right knowledge at the right time and in the right place;
- 4) the use of knowledge, i.e. the application of knowledge to solve the problem situation.

A strategic knowledge management perspective was also adopted, which relates to the processes and the infrastructures organizations use to attain, create and share knowledge for strategy formulation and strategic decisions process (Ferreira, Mueller, and Papa, 2018; Zack, 2002).

As regards the use of AI solutions in knowledge management, the focus was primarily on research by Liebowitz (2001), which indicated the following application areas:

- 1) knowledge capture and representation, by applying knowledge acquisition techniques, i.e. interviewing, protocol analysis, simulation, personal construct theory, card sorting, data/text mining approaches, etc.;
- 2) knowledge repositories – knowledge taxonomy, knowledge mapping;
- 3) knowledge transfer (sharing) – intelligent agents, data mining and knowledge discovery techniques, online communities, etc.

Generally, it can be said that knowledge management uses AI tools to capture, filter, represent and apply knowledge. Additionally, AI solutions provide apps for selecting, analyzing and classifying text, automatic inference and visualization to facilitate decision making, and processing human input data (e.g. handwriting and voice recognition). Artificial intelligence helps, above all, to overcome the problems associated with the huge amounts of data that need to be sorted, processed, analyzed, etc. (Dalkir, 2013).

### 6.3. The empirical research methodics

In connection with the above considerations and assumptions, **the main goal of the empirical research** was to identify the advantages and disadvantages of selected knowledge management tools from the end-user point of view distinguished on the basis of a demographic feature.

When designing the study, three main research questions were formulated, namely:

1. What advantages and disadvantages of AI-assisted knowledge management do end-users from Generation Z indicate?
2. In what areas of knowledge management does Gen Z identify the advantages and disadvantages of AI support?
3. In what areas of the knowledge management process are the advantages and disadvantages unnoticed by the end-users?

The indirect research intention was also to determine whether Generation Z, which is referred to as the digital generation, is aware of the risks associated with the above-mentioned solutions.

In the preparation stage of the study, it was assumed that the elements of content analysis and coding of answers to open-ended questions would be used in the research process. This assumption was due to the fact that researchers were not interested in the statistical distribution of responses to predefined concepts. However, it was crucial to identify and explore the implicit knowledge from particular kind of data broadly interpreted. Thus, the initial assumption of the analysis comes from the concept of a ‘mental lexicon’, according to which the meaning associated with a given word reflects the process of categorizing the surrounding reality (Emmorey and Fromkin, 1988; Taft, 2013). The collected statements were subjected to content analysis, which allowed for the categorization of the answers in accordance with

the developed coding keys. Then the following thematic sets (clusters) were distinguished:

- a) subject of influence,
- b) qualitative features,
- c) phases of the knowledge management process (identification, collection, transfer, use).

The obtained values were statistically analyzed with the use of standardization and factor analysis. In order to receive texts for analysis, 166 respondents were invited to cooperate. The respondents had to meet the criteria of age (20-25) and education (none could have a technical and IT education). They were divided into teams of a maximum of four. The task of each team was to analyze any tool they used to manage their knowledge (e.g. databases, web browsers, intranet solutions, etc.) and then identify the advantages and disadvantages of these solutions. As a result, 46 projects were received, of which 81 statements qualified for analysis (repeated statements were eliminated from the research material).

The projects were developed in the period from April to June 2021. The language of the study was Polish. Formal verification was carried out in June 2021. The actual research was conducted from October to December 2021.

#### **6.4. The empirical research findings**

The data analysis began with the identification of who/what the identified advantages, disadvantages, benefits and threats were related to, i.e. research in terms of the subject of impact (see Table 6.2).

**Table 6.2.** The subject of impact

	Advantages (in %)	Disadvantages (in %)
People	21	10
Data	41	17
Information	7	0
Knowledge	3	0

Source: own research.

Mostly, the respondents pointed to the advantages related to “data” (41% of the responses). There was no indication of defects in “information” and “knowledge”; this probably means that the respondents did not see threats related to, for example, the loss of information and knowledge, but perceived the loss of “data”. This is not just of semantic relevance. This result shows that the respondents’ awareness of the relation between, for example, loss of data and loss of knowledge was still low. It is also important to note that the respondents perceived very little of the relationship between the phenomena occurring in the digital world and the resulting threats

and benefits for themselves. Permanent surveillance was the only field where the respondents clearly indicated “the threat to humans”.

The purpose of the second analysis was to identify the qualitative characteristics that the respondents attributed to solutions used in knowledge management with the use of artificial intelligence (see Table 6.3).

**Table 6.3.** The qualitative characteristics

	Advantages (in %)	Disadvantages (in %)
Efficiency, effectiveness	12	5
Environmental friendliness (eco)	2	0
Speed	25	0
Convenience	10	0
Ease	17	0
Accuracy, precision	8	7
Permanence	3	7
Objectivism	2	3

Source: own research.

**Table 6.4.** Classification in terms of the phases of the knowledge management process

Factor	Advantages (in %)	Disadvantages (in %)
<b>PHASE: ACQUISITION</b>		
Acquiring	8	2
Searching	5	1
<b>PHASE: PROCESSING</b>		
Cost	1	0
Comparing, sorting, cataloging, segregation	4	1
Copying	2	1
Modifying	2	1
Processing	9	2
<b>PHASE: STORAGE</b>		
Carriers	4	0
Infrastructure	8	3
Maintenance	4	4
Cost	6	0
Storage	6	0
<b>PHASE: PROTECTION &amp; SECURITY</b>		
Security	5	8
Theft	1	2
Loss	1	3
Making public	1	3

Source: own research.

By applying the principles of content analysis, the adjectives used in the statements by the respondents were systematized. As indicated in Table 15, most of the quality characteristics are related to advantages, in particular emphasizing "speed" (25%) and "ease" (17%). This was confirmed by the findings used, for example, when designing apps, according to which the end user expects, above all, the intuitiveness of the solution (translated into "ease") and a short system response time ("speed"). The above features are also related to such functions as: convenience, accessibility (in terms of time and scope), and location (accessibility in the geographical sense).

The key analysis concerned the classification of indications in terms of the phases of the knowledge management process. The division was adopted in accordance with Wyrozębski (2014), who distinguished the following components of the above-mentioned process: identification, collection (including: acquisition, processing, storage, protection and security), transfer and use as presented in Table 6.4.

The study did not address the explanation of the reasons for the statements made by the respondents, so it can only be assumed that since none of them had any technical and IT education, no indications resulted of the risks and disadvantages related to the costs of processing and storage, while stressing many benefits of this range. Particularly noteworthy was the "processing" function (9%), which, with the matrix reading of the results combined with the features of "convenience", "ease", "speed", provided another field of significance.

It is worth noting that the dominant number of statements concerned the storage phase (28% in the case of advantages) and securing and protection (16% defects).

## 6.5. Final conclusions and research summary

Referring to the results of the study presented above, it can be concluded that the goal of the empirical research has been realized. The research allowed to confirm the fact that from the point of view of the end user, there are both advantages and disadvantages of the selected AI-aided knowledge management tools. The most important advantages are ease and speed, i.e. features that improve the pace of task implementation, with an uncomplicated form of use. The second important and identified issue concerns the security sphere, as the awareness of end-users of the relations between data incidents and personal and organizational security needs to be increased (e.g. the consequences of a customer data loss by a bank). The third problem is related to the economic side of knowledge management, namely: the correct estimation of losses, expenditures and expected profits; the lack of technical/IT knowledge on the part of strategic and financial analysts may result in underestimating or overestimating the expected effects of implementing AI solutions to knowledge management systems in the organization. Therefore, the above research findings allow to admit that the goal of this chapter has also been achieved. The author presented the benefits and threats related to knowledge management supported by artificial intelligence algorithms from the perspective of end users.

Finally, it is necessary to add that the study was a pilot study. Both the size of the respondent group as well as the scope and methods of obtaining lexical material will be expanded in the further research. Nevertheless, it is visible that the discussed topic is extremely important from the point of view of strategic knowledge management in an organization, as well as designing appropriate systems for individual clients.

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