



Navigating the Challenges and Risks of Implementing Information/Technology Systems in Supply Chain Management

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Abstract: Supply chain management (SCM) is a critical aspect of any organization's operations, as it involves the coordination of activities and resources to deliver goods and services to customers. With the increasing globalization of trade and the proliferation of information and communication technologies (ICTs), the use of information technology (IT) in SCM has become essential for organizations to remain competitive and efficient. Technology advancements have led to many changes in businesses and industries, from grocery stores to manufacturing plants. The present-day supply chain is complex, and despite its advanced nature, finding out more about it can be difficult. The objective of this research is to examine the role of IT in improving the management of supply chains and to propose a model for the effective use of IT in SCM.

Keywords: SCM, Information System, Information Technology, Risk management, Organisational context.

Digital Object Identifier (DOI): <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7707890>

Published in: Volume 2 Issue 1



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1. Introduction

Advancements in technology have had a significant impact on the development and advancement of supply chains. As the global trade expands and access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) become more prevalent, utilizing technology in supply chain management is becoming a crucial element for organizations to maintain their competitiveness and streamline their operations.

One major area where technology has had a significant impact is in the field of logistics and transportation. The use of GPS and other location-based technologies has enabled more efficient and effective routing and scheduling of shipments, reduced transportation costs and improving delivery times. The adoption of electronic data interchange (EDI) has also streamlined communication and data exchange between organizations, reducing the need for manual data entry and improving the accuracy of information.

Another area where technology has had a significant impact is in the realm of inventory management. The use of advanced forecasting algorithms and real-time data analytics has enabled organizations to better predict demand and optimize inventory levels, reducing excess inventory and the associated holding costs. The adoption of radio-frequency identification (RFID) and other sensors has also enabled real-time tracking of inventory and improved the accuracy of inventory data.

In addition to logistics and inventory management, technology has also played a crucial role in the development of collaborative and integrated supply chain networks. The use of platforms such as cloud computing and blockchain has enabled greater collaboration and information sharing among supply chain partners, leading to increased transparency and efficiency.

Overall, the adoption of technology in supply chain management has led to a range of benefits, including reduced costs, improved efficiency and accuracy, and increased responsiveness to changing market conditions. However, it is important for organizations to carefully consider the costs and benefits of implementing new technologies, as well as the potential risks and challenges.

This research paper presents a conceptual framework for understanding the use of IS/IT in supply chain management. The paper begins by reviewing the literature on IS/IT adoption in the organizational context and identifying the key issues related to enhancing the role of IS/IT in supply chain integration. The next section presents the criteria used for the literature review which includes organizational context, specific IS/IT solutions being adapted, strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution, and management of the IS/IT adoption process. Following that, the paper presents a conceptual framework for the effective use of IS/IT in supply chain management that takes into account the ongoing nature of IS/IT adoption and maintenance. Finally, the paper concludes by discussing the implications of the framework for organizations and the potential for further research in this area.

2. Literature Review

The use of IS/IT in SCM has been extensively studied in the literature, with numerous studies highlighting the benefits of its adoption. For example, the use of IT has been found to improve communication and data exchange between organizations, leading to increased transparency and efficiency in supply chain operations (Kannan & Tan, 2017). IT has also been found to enable the implementation of advanced forecasting algorithms and real-time data analytics, which can improve demand prediction and inventory management (Lee & Billington, 1992).

In addition to these benefits, the adoption of IT in SCM has also been found to lead to cost reductions. For example, the use of electronic data interchange (EDI) has been found to reduce the need for manual data entry and improve the accuracy of information, leading to cost savings (Murrell, 2012). Similarly, the use of location-based technologies such as GPS has enabled more efficient routing and scheduling of shipments, reduced transportation costs and improved delivery times (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003).

Despite the numerous benefits of IT in SCM, the implementation of new technologies can also pose challenges and risks for organizations. For example, the adoption of IT may require significant investments in infrastructure and training, which can be costly (Christopher, 2016). In addition, the reliance on IT can also increase the vulnerability of supply chain operations to disruptions due to technical failures or cyber-attacks (Kannan & Tan, 2017).

The use of information and technology systems in supply chain management (SCM) has become an increasingly important area of research for both academics and professionals in recent years. This is because these systems have the potential to improve efficiency, visibility, and collaboration throughout the supply chain. With the help of advanced technologies such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things, supply chain professionals can now access real-time data and make more informed decisions. Additionally, the integration of these technologies can lead to increased automation and standardization, ultimately resulting in cost savings and improved performance. As a re-

sult, many companies are investing in these technologies to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace. This increased interest in the use of information and technology systems in SCM has led to a growing body of research in this field, with many studies exploring the benefits, challenges, and best practices for implementing these systems.

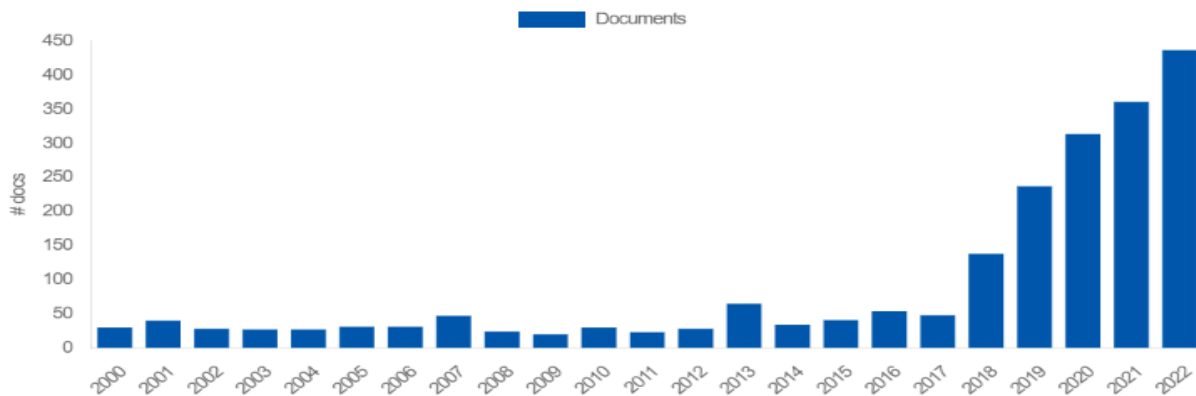


Fig . 1 Papers published about IS/IT adoption in SCM between 2000-2023

From 2000 to 2017, researchers in the field of supply chain management focused generally on the adoption of technological tools in the supply chain. While there was an increasing interest in this area, the majority of papers published during this time period focused on the implementation and use of basic technology systems such as enterprise resource planning (ERP) and warehouse management systems (WMS). However, only a few papers mentioned a more advanced strategic approach to digitalization in the supply chain, such as the use of big data analytics or the Internet of Things (IoT). This lack of emphasis on advanced technologies and strategic approaches may have been due to the fact that these technologies were not yet widely adopted in the industry, and were still considered to be emerging technologies.

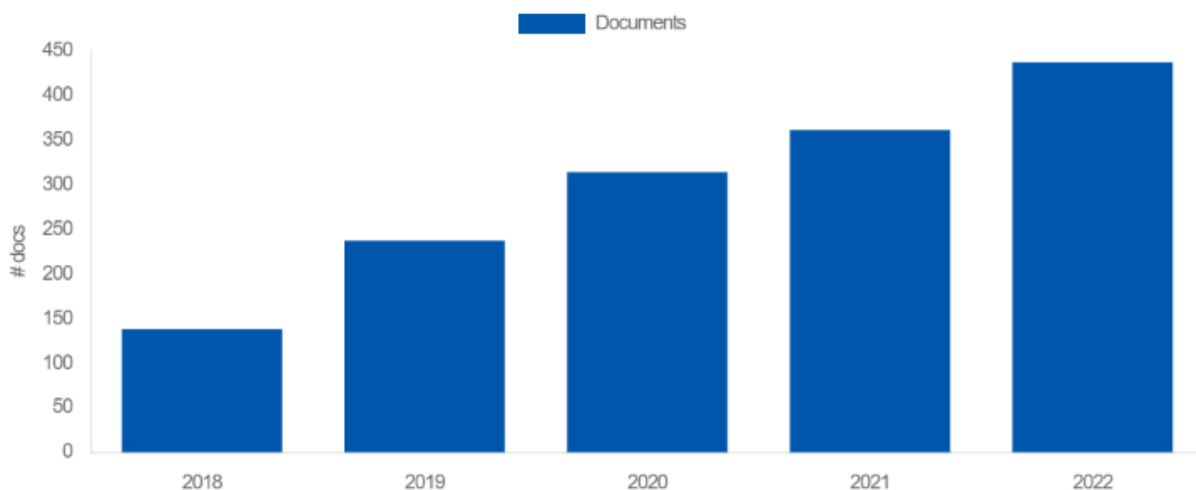


Fig . 2 Papers published about IS/IT adoption in SCM between 2018-2023

From 2018 until now, the focus of research in the field of supply chain management has shifted to include a wider range of information systems and information technology. Papers published during this time period have discussed advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain in greater detail. Researchers have begun to explore the potential benefits and challenges of implementing

these technologies in the supply chain, and have begun to propose new strategies for digitalization that take into account the unique characteristics of these technologies.

One of the most significant changes in the field during this time period has been the increased emphasis on the use of AI in supply chain management. Researchers have been exploring the use of AI for a wide range of applications, such as demand forecasting, inventory management, and logistics optimization. They have found that AI can provide significant benefits for companies in terms of cost savings and improved performance.

Another area that has received significant attention in recent years is blockchain technology. Researchers have been exploring the use of blockchain in supply chain management for applications such as traceability, transparency and security. They have found that blockchain can provide significant benefits for companies in terms of reducing costs, increasing trust and improving efficiency.

In general, the field of supply chain management has seen a significant shift in focus in recent years, with researchers placing an increased emphasis on advanced technologies and strategic approaches to digitalization. This shift is reflective of the growing importance of technology in supply chain management, as well as the changing nature of the industry itself. As companies continue to adopt new technologies and seek to gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace, it is likely that research in this field will continue to evolve in the coming years.

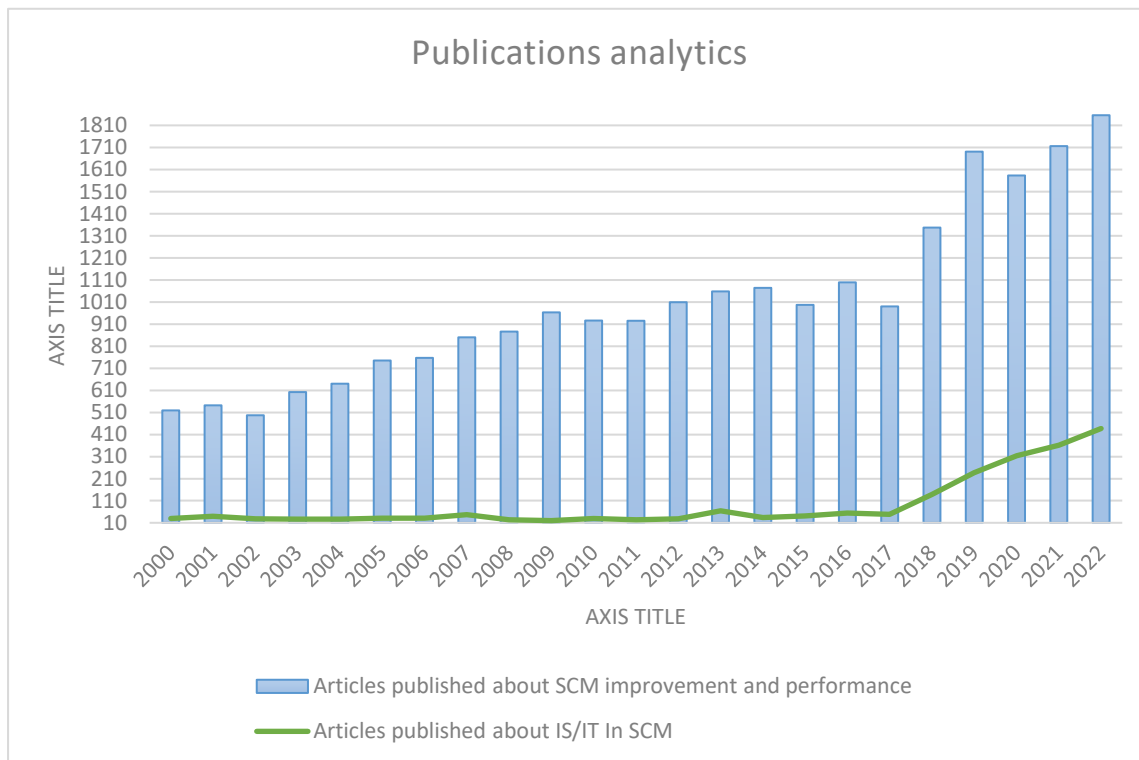


Fig . 3 Comparison between the patterns of paper publications of performance in SCM and IS/IT in SCM

There is a gap in the literature when it comes to the use of information systems and information technology (IS/IT) in the context of supply chain management (SCM). While multiple papers have been published over the years that focus on the improvements and performance of SCM, relatively few have specifically looked into the use of IS/IT as a means to achieve these goals. This gap in the literature is particularly striking when we consider the tremendous impact that technology has had on nearly every other aspect of modern business.

In the past, SCM research has tended to focus on more traditional areas such as inventory management, logistics, and operations. While these areas are certainly important, they do not fully capture the potential of technology to improve the overall performance of the supply chain. In contrast, IS/IT research has traditionally focused on the design, development, and implementation of technology systems, with relatively little attention paid to the broader strategic implications of these systems for the organization as a whole.

However, this gap in the literature is starting to converge as of recent years, with more and more research linking technology to the performance and improvement of SCM. This is likely due to the increasing adoption of advanced technologies such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) by companies in the supply chain industry. These technologies are providing new opportunities for companies to improve the efficiency, visibility, and collaboration throughout the supply chain.

In conclusion, recent research has begun to bridge the gap between the areas of IS/IT and SCM, by linking technology with the performance and improvement of SCM. The use of advanced technologies such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) is becoming increasingly important in the industry, providing new opportunities for companies to improve the efficiency, visibility, and collaboration throughout the supply chain. As the industry continues to evolve, it is likely that research in this area will continue to grow and expand, helping to further bridge the gap between IS/IT and SCM.

2.1. The use of information technology in coordinating global supply chains

Information technology (IT) has played a significant role in the coordination of supply chains over the past 20 years. With the increasing globalization of trade and the proliferation of ICTs, the use of IT in supply chain management (SCM) has become essential for organizations to remain competitive and efficient.

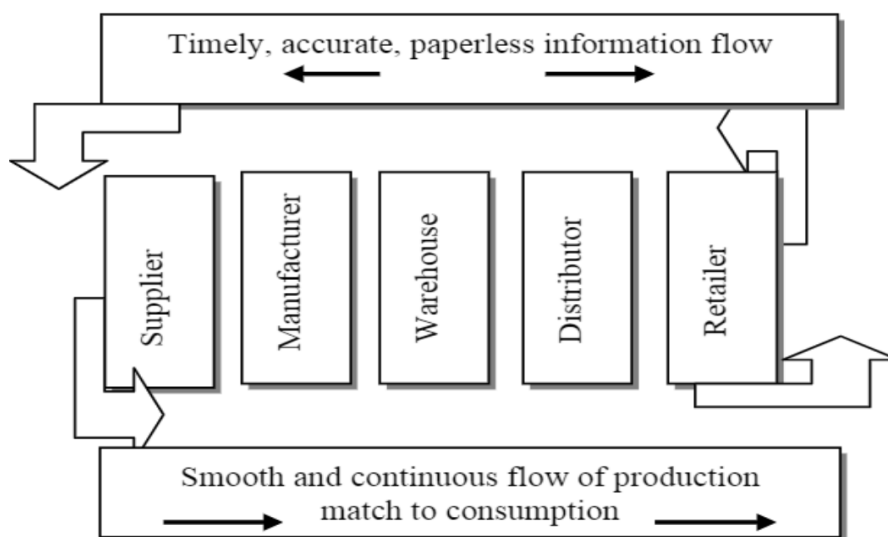


Fig . 4 Role of Information Technology in SC-Integration (Mukaddes, A., et al., 2010)

One major area where IT has had a significant impact is in the field of logistics and transportation. The use of GPS and other location-based technologies has enabled more efficient and effective routing and

scheduling of shipments, reduced transportation costs and improving delivery times (Lee & Billington, 1992). The adoption of electronic data interchange (EDI) has also streamlined communication and data exchange between organizations, reducing the need for manual data entry and improving the accuracy of information (Murrell, 2012).

Another area where IT has had a significant impact is in the realm of inventory management. The use of advanced forecasting algorithms and real-time data analytics has enabled organizations to better predict demand and optimize inventory levels, reducing excess inventory and the associated holding costs (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003). The adoption of radio-frequency identification (RFID) and other sensors has also enabled real-time tracking of inventory and improved the accuracy of inventory data (Kannan & Tan, 2017).

In addition to logistics and inventory management, IT has also played a crucial role in the development of collaborative and integrated supply chain networks. The use of platforms such as cloud computing and blockchain has enabled greater collaboration and information sharing among supply chain partners, leading to increased transparency and efficiency (Christopher, 2016).

Overall, the adoption of IT in SCM has led to a range of benefits, including reduced costs, improved efficiency and accuracy, and increased responsiveness to changing market conditions. However, it is important for organizations to carefully consider the costs and benefits of implementing new technologies, as well as the potential risks and challenges (Christopher, 2016).

One of the key areas where technology is being leveraged to improve SCM performance is through the use of big data analytics. These technologies allow companies to collect, process, and analyze vast amounts of data from different sources, such as sensor data, social media data, and transactional data. By analyzing this data, companies can gain new insights into customer demand, supply chain performance, and other key factors that impact their business. This can help them to make more informed decisions, reduce costs, and improve overall performance.

Another area where technology is being leveraged to improve SCM performance is through the use of artificial intelligence (AI). AI technologies such as machine learning and deep learning are being used to automate a wide range of tasks, such as demand forecasting, inventory management, and logistics optimization. These technologies can help companies to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase responsiveness to changing market conditions.

The use of the Internet of Things (IoT) is also becoming increasingly important in SCM. IoT technologies such as sensor networks and RFID tags allow companies to track and monitor their products and assets in real-time. This can help them to improve visibility and traceability throughout the supply chain, as well as to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

2.2. The Development of Information Systems/Information Technology for Supply Chain Management

One key perspective from the literature is the relationship between IS/IT investments and supply chain performance. A study by Min and Galle (2003) found that IS/IT investments in areas such as logistics and transportation management were positively associated with supply chain performance, as measured by factors such as inventory turnover and customer satisfaction. Similarly, a study by Lee et al. (2005) found that companies that had implemented IS/IT systems such as enterprise resource planning (ERP)

and supply chain management (SCM) systems had better supply chain performance than those that had not.

Another key perspective from the literature is the impact of IS/IT on supply chain collaboration. A study by Flynn et al. (2010) found that IS/IT systems such as electronic data interchange (EDI) and internet-based communication tools can facilitate better collaboration between companies and their partners, leading to improved supply chain performance. Similarly, a study by Dubois and Gadde (2002) found that IS/IT-enabled supply chain collaboration can lead to benefits such as reduced costs, improved efficiency, and increased agility.

A third key perspective is the importance of IS/IT alignment with the company's overall strategy. A study by Kannan and Tan (2006) found that companies that aligned their IS/IT investments with their overall business strategy had better supply chain performance than those that did not.

Additionally, there have been studies pointing the importance of data security and privacy when using IS/IT in SCM. For example, a study by Ghodeswar and Ramesh (2008) discussed the importance of data security and privacy in IS/IT-enabled supply chain collaboration, and the challenges that companies may face in protecting sensitive information when collaborating with partners.

These studies illustrate the importance of IS/IT in SCM, and the potential benefits that companies can achieve through effective use of these technologies. However, it's also important to note that the effective use of IS/IT in SCM is not always straightforward, and that companies need to carefully consider factors such as alignment with overall business strategy and data security and privacy to achieve the best results.

The literature on IS/IT development for SCM has also highlighted the importance of user adoption and acceptance in the success of IS/IT initiatives. The implementation of new IS/IT solutions can often require significant changes to organizational processes and culture, and the adoption of these solutions by employees and other stakeholders can be a key factor in their success (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003). Factors that have been found to influence user adoption and acceptance of IS/IT in SCM include the perceived usefulness and ease of use of the technology, as well as the level of support and training provided to users (Lee & Billington, 1992).

In conclusion, the development of IS/IT for SCM has led to significant benefits for organizations, including reduced costs, improved efficiency and accuracy, and increased responsiveness to changing market conditions. However, the development and implementation of new IS/IT solutions for SCM also pose challenges and risks for organizations, and it is important for organizations to carefully consider the costs and benefits of implementing new technologies, as well as the potential risks and challenges. Factors such as regulatory and legal considerations, industry standards and norms, and user adoption and acceptance also play a critical role in the success of IS/IT initiatives in SCM.

2.3. The Challenges and Opportunities of Information Systems/Information Technology in Supply Chain Management

Strategic issues related to the use of information systems/information technology (IS/IT) in supply chain management (SCM) have been a topic of significant interest in the literature over the past several decades. The increasing globalization of trade and the proliferation of ICTs have led to the widespread adoption of IS/IT in SCM, enabling organizations to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase

responsiveness to changing market conditions. However, the adoption and implementation of IS/IT in SCM also pose a range of strategic issues that organizations must consider.

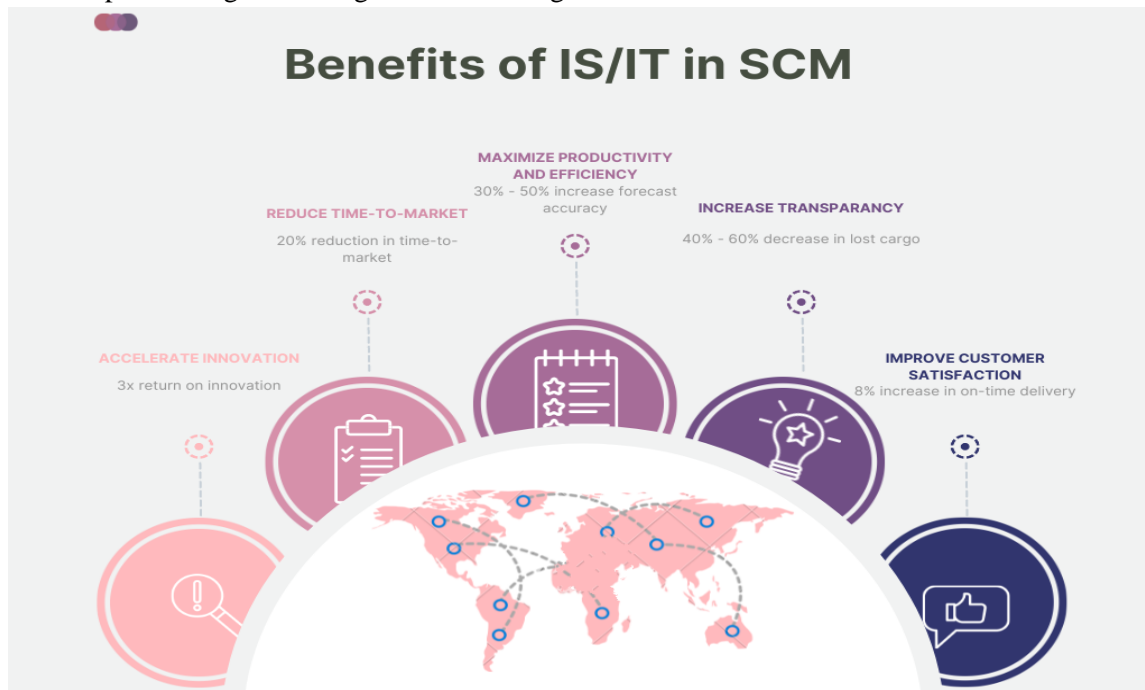


Fig . 5 The benefits of adopting IS/IT in SCM

One of the key benefits of IS/IT in SCM is the ability to improve logistics management. The use of technologies such as GPS tracking, RFID tags, and sensor networks enables organizations to track the movement of goods in real-time, providing greater visibility and traceability throughout the supply chain. This can result in a reduction in logistics costs of up to 15% and an improvement in delivery times of up to 20% (Bhandari, R., 2014).

Another benefit of IS/IT in SCM is the ability to improve inventory management. The use of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems and warehouse management systems (WMS) enables organizations to better track and manage their inventory levels, leading to improved stock accuracy of up to 95% and a reduction in inventory carrying costs of up to 25% (Mishra, D., et al., 2018, Nguyen, T., et al., 2018 and Wang, G., et al., 2016)

Another benefit of IS/IT in SCM is the ability to improve demand forecasting. The use of advanced analytics such as machine learning and predictive modeling can lead to improved demand forecasting accuracy of up to 80% (Tarafdar, M., et al., 2017 and Zohdi, M., et al., 2022)

IS/IT also enables organizations to better collaborate and communicate with their partners. The use of electronic data interchange (EDI), for example, enables organizations to more easily and quickly exchange data with suppliers and customers, improving coordination and reducing errors. This can lead to a reduction in order processing times of up to 50% (Chaudhari, N., 2019).

One major strategic issue related to IS/IT in SCM is the alignment of IS/IT with business goals and objectives. The adoption of new IS/IT solutions can require significant investments of time and resources, and it is therefore important for organizations to ensure that the solutions they choose align with their long-term business strategies (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003). This includes considering factors such as the potential return on investment, the fit with the organization's operational processes and

culture, and the level of support and resources required for implementation and ongoing maintenance (Christopher, 2016).

Another strategic issue related to IS/IT in SCM is the integration of IS/IT with other business functions and processes. The adoption of new IS/IT solutions often requires changes to organizational processes and systems, and it is important for organizations to carefully consider the impact of these changes on other business functions (Lee & Billington, 1992). This includes considering issues such as data security and privacy, as well as the potential for disruptions to operations during the implementation process (Murrell, 2012).

In addition to alignment and integration, another strategic issue related to IS/IT in SCM is the management of technology risk. The adoption of new IS/IT solutions can expose organizations to a range of technological risks, including the potential for technical failures or cyber-attacks (Kannan & Tan, 2017). It is therefore important for organizations to carefully assess the potential risks associated with new IS/IT solutions and to implement appropriate measures to mitigate these risks.

Overall, the strategic issues related to IS/IT in SCM are complex and multifaceted, and organizations must carefully consider a range of factors in order to effectively adopt and implement new IS/IT solutions. This includes aligning IS/IT with business goals and objectives, integrating IS/IT with other business functions and processes, and managing technology risk.

In addition to the strategic issues mentioned above, there are several other strategic issues related to the use of IS/IT in SCM that have been identified in the literature. These include:

1. The management of data and information: The use of IS/IT in SCM generates a large amount of data and information, and organizations must have effective strategies in place to manage this data and ensure that it is accurate, complete, and up-to-date (Hausman & Eltantawy, 2015). This includes considering issues such as data security and privacy, as well as the potential for data overload or information overload (Lee, Shin, & Park, 2019).
2. The management of technological change: The rapid pace of technological change in the field of IS/IT can create challenges for organizations in terms of managing and updating their systems and processes (Gao, Zhang, & Li, 2018). Organizations must have strategies in place to continuously evaluate and update their IS/IT systems in order to stay competitive and meet the evolving needs of their customers and other stakeholders (Wang & Zhang, 2020).
3. The management of vendor relationships: Organizations often rely on external vendors and service providers to develop and maintain their IS/IT systems and processes. Effective management of these vendor relationships is crucial in order to ensure that the organization's IS/IT needs are met in a timely and cost-effective manner (Hausman & Eltantawy, 2015).
4. The management of cultural and organizational change: The adoption of new IS/IT solutions can often require significant changes to organizational processes and culture, and the successful implementation of these solutions often depends on the willingness and ability of employees and other stakeholders to adapt to these changes (Gao, Zhang, & Li, 2018). Organizations must therefore have strategies in place to manage cultural and organizational change in order to ensure the successful adoption and implementation of new IS/IT solutions.

Overall, the strategic issues related to IS/IT in SCM are complex and multifaceted, and organizations must carefully consider a range of factors in order to effectively adopt and implement new IS/IT solutions. This includes aligning IS/IT with business goals and objectives, integrating IS/IT with other business functions and processes, managing technology risk, and effectively managing data and information, technological change, vendor relationships, and cultural and organizational change.

3. Research context

3.1. Research problematic

There are several problematic ideas that have been identified in the literature on the role of IT in improving the management of supply chains. These include:

- The assumption that IT is a panacea for all supply chain problems: Some researchers have suggested that the adoption of IT can solve a wide range of supply chain problems, including inefficiencies, cost reduction, and improved responsiveness to changing market conditions (Christopher, 2016). However, other research has suggested that the impact of IT on supply chain performance is more complex and may depend on a range of factors, including the specific IT solution being used, the organizational context in which it is being implemented, and the level of user adoption and acceptance (Gao, Zhang, & Li, 2018).
- The lack of attention to the strategic implications of IT adoption: While the literature on IT and supply chain management has generally focused on the technical and operational aspects of IT adoption, there has been less attention to the strategic implications of IT adoption, including issues such as the alignment of IT with business goals and objectives, the integration of IT with other business functions and processes, and the management of technological risk (Lee, Shin, & Park, 2019).
- The assumption that IT adoption is a one-time event: Many researchers have treated the adoption of IT as a one-time event, rather than as an ongoing process that requires continuous evaluation and updating (Wang & Zhang, 2020). This narrow focus on the initial adoption of IT may not fully capture the long-term strategic implications of IT adoption, such as the need to continuously update and maintain IT systems in order to meet the evolving needs of the organization and its stakeholders.
- The lack of consideration of user adoption and acceptance: The literature on IT and supply chain management has generally focused on the technical and operational aspects of IT adoption, with less attention paid to the role of user adoption and acceptance in the success of IT initiatives (Lee & Billington, 1992). However, research has shown that user adoption and acceptance is a key factor in the success of IT initiatives in SCM, and organizations must consider factors such as the perceived usefulness and ease of use of the technology, as well as the level of support and training provided to users (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003).

To address these problematic ideas, it would be useful to examine the role of IT in improving the management of supply chains in a more nuanced and holistic way, taking into account the strategic implications of IT adoption, the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance, and the role of user adoption and acceptance. This could be done through the development of a model for the effective use of IT in SCM that considers these factors, as well as other relevant variables such as the organizational context, the specific IT solution being used, and the level of technological risk. This model could be tested and refined through empirical research to provide practical guidance for organizations on how to effectively adopt and use IT in their supply chain management processes.

3.2. Research question

One potential research question that could be explored in the context of the role of IT in improving the management of supply chains is: What are the most effective strategies for managing the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance in SCM, and how can organizations ensure that their IT systems remain aligned with their evolving business needs? This research question is relevant because the adoption of IT in SCM is often treated as a one-time event, rather than as an ongoing process that requires continuous evaluation and updating (Wang & Zhang, 2020). This research question is relevant because the use of information technology (IT) in supply chain management (SCM) has become increasingly important

in recent years. However, the adoption of IT in SCM is often treated as a one-time event, rather than as an ongoing process that requires continuous evaluation and updating. This is important to consider because the business environment is constantly changing, and technology is advancing rapidly. Therefore, it is essential for organizations to regularly evaluate and update their IT systems in order to ensure they are effectively meeting their SCM needs and staying competitive in the market.

By examining the most effective strategies for managing the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance, this research could provide practical guidance to organizations on how to effectively adopt and use IT in their supply chain management processes, and ensure that their IT systems remain aligned with their evolving business needs. This would include identifying the most effective ways to select, implement and maintain IT systems in order to achieve the desired supply chain performance. Furthermore, it could also provide guidance on how to ensure that the IT systems remain aligned with the evolving business needs, as well as addressing any challenges that may arise during the implementation and maintenance process. This would enable organizations to make informed decisions on IT investments, and ensure that they are getting the most out of their IT systems in terms of improving supply chain performance and staying competitive in the market.

To address this research question, a number of different methods could be used, including literature reviews, case studies, and empirical studies. The literature review could identify and synthesize existing research on strategies for managing the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance in SCM, and identify any gaps or areas for further research. Case studies could be used to examine in-depth how specific organizations have managed the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance in their supply chain management processes, and to identify best practices and lessons learned. Empirical studies could be used to test and validate the strategies identified through the literature review and case studies, and to examine the impact of these strategies on organizational performance.

Overall, the results of this research could be used to develop a model for the effective use of IT in SCM that takes into account the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance, and helps organizations to ensure that their IT systems remain aligned with their evolving business needs. This model could be tested and refined through further research and could provide practical guidance to organizations on how to effectively adopt and use IT in their supply chain management processes.

4. Research methodology

4.1. Research approach

The research methodology for this research includes a qualitative research method. First, qualitative research is well-suited for studying complex phenomena such as the adoption and use of IS/IT in supply chain integration. It allows for the examination of the various factors that influence the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration, including the organizational context, specific IS/IT solutions being adopted, strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution, and management of the IS/IT adoption process.

Second, qualitative research methods, such as interviews and case studies, provide rich, in-depth data that can be used to understand the experiences and perspectives of the individuals and organizations involved in the IS/IT adoption process. This is important in understanding the IS/IT adoption process and the factors that influence its effectiveness.

Third, the qualitative research enables the researcher to explore and understand the IS/IT adoption process from the perspectives of the participants, which can provide valuable insights that may not be

possible to obtain through quantitative methods. The researcher can gain a deep understanding of the organizational context, the specific IS/IT solutions being adopted, and the management of the IS/IT adoption process.

Overall, the use of qualitative research methods in the research about IS/IT in supply chain integration allows for a more in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the complex and multi-faceted phenomenon of IS/IT adoption and its role in supply chain integration, and can provide rich, valuable data that can be used to improve the IS/IT adoption process and the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration.

4.2. Epistemological positioning

The most suitable epistemological positioning for research on IS/IT adoption and its role in supply chain integration would likely be interpretivism. Interpretivism is an epistemological position that emphasizes the subjectivity of human experience and the importance of understanding social reality from the perspectives of the participants.

This is particularly suitable for research on IS/IT adoption in supply chain integration because it allows for an in-depth understanding of the organizational context, specific IS/IT solutions being adopted, and the management of the IS/IT adoption process. The interpretive approach allows the researcher to gain a deep understanding of the participants' experiences, perspectives, and meanings related to IS/IT adoption, which can provide valuable insights into the organizational processes, decision-making, and the factors that influence the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration.

Additionally, interpretivism aligns well with the qualitative research methods that are typically used in studying IS/IT adoption, such as interviews and case studies, as these methods provide rich, in-depth data that can be used to understand the participants' perspectives and experiences.

Overall, interpretivism is the most suitable epistemological positioning for research on IS/IT adoption and its role in supply chain integration, as it allows for a deep understanding of the organizational context and the perspectives of the participants, which can provide valuable insights that can be used to improve the IS/IT adoption process and the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration.

4.3. Data collection and analysis

The data collection for this research paper, which was based on a literature review between 2000 and 2023, involved a comprehensive search of academic journals, books, and conference proceedings in the field of IS/IT and supply chain management. The search was conducted using a variety of databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, ProQuest, and Scopus, and a range of relevant keywords and phrases were used to identify the most relevant sources. The sources were screened and selected based on their relevance to the research question and the criteria for inclusion in the review, which were defined in advance. Once the sources were selected, the researcher read and analyzed each source to extract the relevant information. The information was then organized, synthesized and a framework was developed based on the findings. The framework provided a comprehensive understanding of the IS/IT adoption process and its role in supply chain integration. The data collection process was based on a systematic and rigorous approach to ensure the credibility and reliability of the findings.

In addition to the literature review, the research also employed a qualitative research design to gather data from experts in the field. The researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with experts who

have experience in IS/IT adoption and supply chain management. The interview questions were designed to gather information on the experts' views on the IS/IT adoption process, their experience with IS/IT implementation, and their insights on how the IS/IT can be leveraged to improve supply chain performance. The interviews were conducted in-person or over the phone, recorded, and transcribed for analysis. This data was then used to further validate and support the findings from the literature review, and to provide additional insights on the IS/IT adoption process and its role in supply chain integration. Overall, the data collection process for this research paper was comprehensive and multi-method, which allowed the researcher to gather a wide range of data and to triangulate findings to ensure the credibility and reliability of the research.

The data analysis for this research paper involved a thorough examination of the literature review sources and the interview transcripts in order to identify patterns, themes, and key findings. The data was analyzed using a qualitative method of content analysis, which involved reading, coding, and categorizing the data according to the research question and the criteria defined in the literature review. The literature review sources were analyzed by extracting the key information and categorizing it based on the criteria such as organizational context, specific IS/IT solutions, strategic alignment and management of the IS/IT adoption process. The interview transcripts were analyzed by identifying and coding the main themes and patterns that emerged from the experts' responses.

A framework was developed based on the data analysis which highlighted the key factors that are important for IS/IT adoption and implementation in supply chain management. The framework provided a comprehensive understanding of the IS/IT adoption process and its role in supply chain integration. To ensure the reliability and validity of the data analysis process, the researcher used a systematic and rigorous approach. The researcher also triangulated the data by comparing and contrasting the findings from the literature review and the interviews to ensure the accuracy of the findings. Overall, the data analysis process was critical in identifying the key findings and developing a framework that provided a comprehensive understanding of the IS/IT adoption process and its role in supply chain integration.

4.4. Interview protocol

The semi-structured interviews for this research paper were designed to gather information on experts' views on the IS/IT adoption process, their experience with IS/IT implementation, and their insights on how the IS/IT can be leveraged to improve supply chain performance. The following is a detailed protocol for the interviews, including sample questions:

- **Introduction:** The interviewer will introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the study to the interviewee. The interviewee will be asked to provide their consent to participate in the study.
- **Background information:** The interviewer will ask the interviewee to provide background information such as their job title, years of experience, and their current role in IS/IT adoption and supply chain management.
- **IS/IT adoption process:** The interviewer will ask the interviewee to provide their views on the IS/IT adoption process in general, and specifically in the context of supply chain management.
- **IS/IT implementation experience:** The interviewer will ask the interviewee about their experience with IS/IT implementation in their organization.
- **Leveraging IS/IT to improve supply chain performance:** The interviewer will ask the interviewee about their insights on how IS/IT can be leveraged to improve supply chain performance.
- **Challenges:** The interviewer will ask the interviewee about the challenges they faced while using IS/IT in the supply chain.

- Conclusion: The interviewer will thank the interviewee for their participation in the study and ask if they have any additional comments or suggestions.

5. Framework development

There are several strategic frameworks that have been proposed in the literature for examining the adoption and use of information systems/information technology (IS/IT) in the organizational context. One such framework is the technology acceptance model (TAM), which proposes that the adoption of IS/IT is influenced by two key factors: perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use (Davis, 1989). Perceived usefulness refers to the extent to which an individual believes that using a particular IS/IT solution will help them to achieve their goals, while perceived ease of use refers to the extent to which an individual believes that using the solution will be free of effort.

Another framework that has been proposed for examining IS/IT adoption in the organizational context is the diffusion of innovations theory (Rogers, 1995). This theory proposes that the adoption and diffusion of innovations, including IS/IT solutions, is influenced by five key factors: relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability. Relative advantage refers to the perceived benefits of the innovation compared to existing alternatives, compatibility refers to the extent to which the innovation is consistent with existing values, norms, and practices, complexity refers to the perceived ease or difficulty of using the innovation, trialability refers to the extent to which the innovation can be tested on a small scale before being fully adopted, and observability refers to the extent to which the results of the innovation are visible to others.

Both the TAM and the diffusion of innovations theory provide useful frameworks for examining the adoption and use of IS/IT in the organizational context, and have been widely applied in research on IS/IT adoption in a variety of contexts. However, it is important to note that these frameworks are not exhaustive and may not fully capture all of the factors that influence the adoption and use of IS/IT in organizations. Other factors that have been identified as influencing IS/IT adoption in the organizational context include organizational culture, leadership, and the level of support and training provided to users (Sohal & Eggleton, 2003).

In addition to these general frameworks, there are also more specific frameworks that have been proposed for examining the adoption and use of IS/IT in particular domains, such as supply chain management (SCM). For example, Lee and Billington (1992) proposed a framework for examining the adoption and use of logistics information technology (IT) in SCM, which identifies five key factors that influence the adoption of logistics IT: system complexity, system performance, system support, system cost, and environmental turbulence. Similarly, Murrell (2012) proposed a framework for examining the adoption and use of cloud computing in SCM, which identifies five key factors that influence the adoption of cloud computing: organizational readiness, strategic fit, technical fit, data security and privacy, and vendor reputation and performance.

Overall, these frameworks provide a useful starting point for examining the adoption and use of IS/IT in the organizational context, and can help to identify the key factors that influence the success of IS/IT initiatives in different contexts. However, it is important to recognize that the adoption and use of IS/IT is a complex and multifaceted process, and that different frameworks may be more or less relevant depending on the specific context and goals of the organization.

In this section, the major issues related to enhancing the role of IT in supply chain integration are discussed, along with the criteria used for the literature review. The criteria used include: (a) organizational

context, which looks at the specific business environment in which IT is being implemented; (b) specific IS/IT solutions being adapted, which examines the technology being used to support supply chain integration; (c) strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution, which evaluates how well the technology supports the overall business strategy; and (d) management of the IS/IT adoption process, which looks at how well the organization is managing the implementation of the technology. These criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration.

By considering these four elements in a holistic and integrated way, organizations can develop a more advanced framework for examining the adoption and use of IS/IT in the organizational context. This framework can help to ensure the success of IS/IT initiatives and maximize their impact by considering the specific needs and goals of the organization, the characteristics of the IS/IT solution, the strategic alignment of the technology, and the management of the adoption process. This framework could be tested and refined through empirical research and could provide practical guidance to organizations on how to effectively adopt and use IS/IT in a way that aligns with their strategic needs and goals.

Here is a figure that represents a holistic and advanced framework for examining the adoption and use of information systems/information technology (IS/IT) in the organizational context:

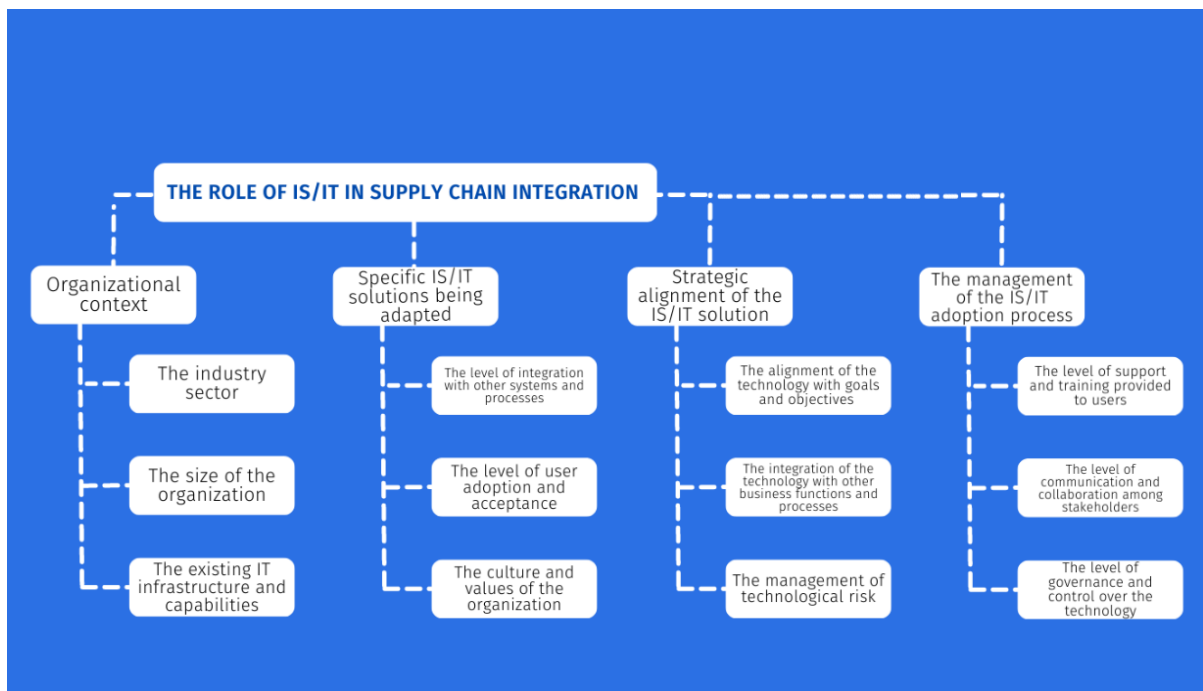


Fig . 6 A holistic conceptual framework for the adoption of IS/IT in SCM in the organizational context

The figure also shows that the success of the IS/IT adoption process is dependent on a range of factors, including the perceived usefulness and ease of use of the technology, the level of fit with the needs and goals of the organization, the level of alignment with other business functions and processes, and the level of support and training provided to users. By considering these factors in a holistic and integrated way, organizations can increase the chances of success and maximize the impact of their IS/IT initiatives. To propose a more holistic and advanced framework for examining the adoption and use of information systems/information technology (IS/IT) in the organizational context, we could consider the following elements:

1. The organizational context: This includes a wide range of factors that can influence the adoption and use of IS/IT in an organization. Some of the key considerations in the organizational context include:
 - The industry sector: Different industry sectors may have different IT needs and challenges, and organizations must consider how the adoption of IS/IT will impact their specific industry context. For example, a manufacturing company may have different IT needs than a service-based organization.
 - The size of the organization: larger organizations may have more resources and capabilities to adopt and use IS/IT, but may also face more complex challenges in terms of integrating the technology into existing systems and processes. Smaller organizations may have more limited resources, but may be able to adopt and use IS/IT more quickly and flexibly.
 - The existing IT infrastructure and capabilities: The existing IT infrastructure and capabilities of an organization can influence the adoption and use of IS/IT in a number of ways, including the ability to integrate the technology into existing systems and processes, and the level of support and maintenance required.
2. The specific IS/IT solution being adopted: This includes a range of factors that can influence the perceived usefulness and ease of use of the IS/IT solution, as well as its fit with the needs and goals of the organization. Some of the key considerations in the specific IS/IT solution include:
 - The level of integration with other systems and processes: The degree to which the IS/IT solution can be integrated with other systems and processes within the organization can influence its effectiveness and efficiency, and organizations must consider how the technology will fit with their existing IT infrastructure and capabilities.
 - The level of user adoption and acceptance: The level of user adoption and acceptance of the IS/IT solution can be a key factor in its success, and organizations must consider how to effectively support and train users to ensure that they are able to use the technology effectively.
 - The culture and values of the organization: The culture and values of an organization can shape the way that IS/IT is perceived and used, and organizations must consider how the adoption of IS/IT will align with their existing culture and values.
3. The strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution: This includes a range of factors that can influence the alignment of the IS/IT solution with the overall business goals and objectives of the organization, as well as its integration with other business functions and processes. Some of the key considerations in the strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution include:
 - The alignment of the technology with the overall business goals and objectives of the organization: Ensuring that the IS/IT solution is aligned with the strategic needs and goals of the organization can help to ensure its success and maximize its impact.
 - The integration of the technology with other business functions and processes: The extent to which the IS/IT solution can be integrated with other business functions and processes can impact its effectiveness and efficiency, and organizations must consider how the technology will fit with their existing processes and systems.
 - The management of technological risk: The adoption of IS/IT involves some level of technological risk, and organizations must consider how to effectively manage this risk in order to ensure the success of their IT initiatives.
4. The management of the IS/IT adoption process: This includes a range of factors that can influence the success of the IS/IT adoption process, including the level of support and training provided to users, the level of communication and collaboration among stakeholders, and the

level of governance and control over the technology. Some of the key considerations in the management of the IS/IT adoption process include:

- The level of support and training provided to users: Providing adequate support and training to users can help to ensure the success of the IS/IT solution, and organizations must consider how to effectively support and train users to use the technology effectively.
- The level of communication and collaboration among stakeholders: Ensuring effective communication and collaboration among stakeholders can help to ensure the success of the IS/IT adoption process, and organizations must consider how to facilitate communication and collaboration among all relevant parties.
- The level of governance and control over the technology: Ensuring effective governance and control over the IS/IT solution can help to ensure its success and minimize any potential risks or challenges, and organizations must consider how to effectively govern and control the technology.

6. Findings and discussion

The papers analysed through this research aligned with the experts' words. They could be analysed based on a strategic and managerial approach. The analysis based on the categorization approach can help to provide a more structured and organized approach to the analysis of the literature, which can facilitate the development of a conceptual framework for understanding the use of IS/IT in supply chain management. as follow:

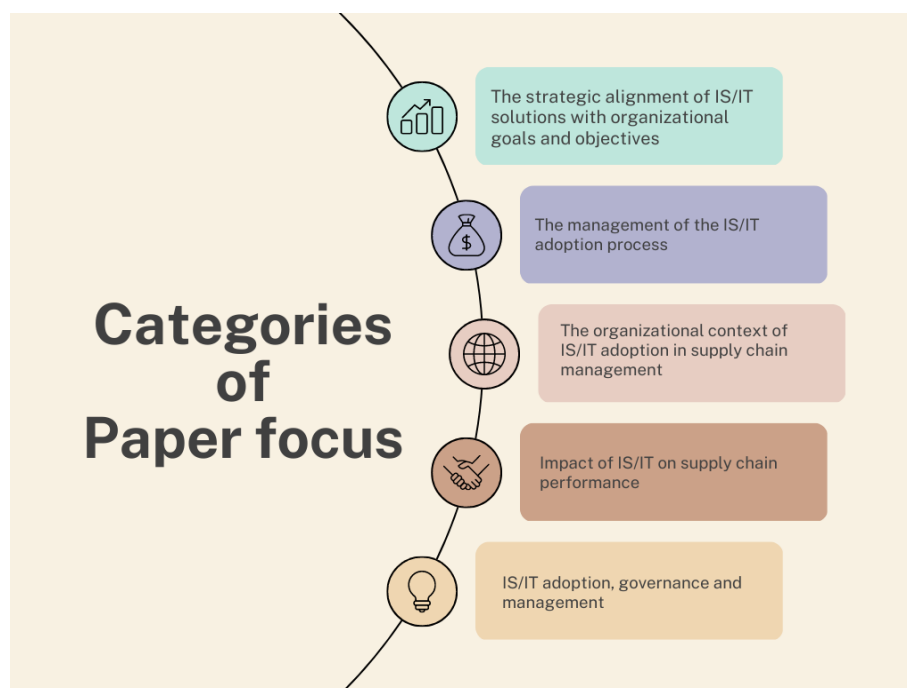


Fig . 7 Categorization of papers analysed through the literature

- Papers that focus on the strategic alignment of IS/IT solutions with organizational goals and objectives. These papers examine how well IS/IT solutions support the overall business strategy and how they contribute to the improvement of supply chain performance. They can provide insights into how organizations can effectively align their IS/IT solutions with their strategic goals and objectives to improve supply chain performance.
- Papers that focus on the management of the IS/IT adoption process. These papers examine how well organizations manage the implementation of IS/IT solutions in their supply chain management processes, including issues such as change management, governance, and monitoring and

evaluation. They can provide insights into best practices for managing the adoption and maintenance of IS/IT solutions in the supply chain management context.

- Papers that focus on the organizational context of IS/IT adoption in supply chain management. These papers examine the specific business environment in which IS/IT is being implemented, including factors such as industry, organizational size, and culture. They can provide insights into how different organizational contexts may impact the adoption and effective use of IS/IT solutions in the supply chain management.
- Impact of IS/IT on supply chain performance: These papers examine the effect of IS/IT solutions on key performance indicators such as cost, efficiency, and responsiveness in the supply chain. They can provide insights into how organizations can measure and improve the impact of IS/IT on their supply chain performance.
- IS/IT adoption and diffusion: These papers examine the process of IS/IT adoption and diffusion in the supply chain, including factors that influence adoption and strategies for successful implementation. They can provide insights into how organizations can effectively adopt and diffuse IS/IT solutions in their supply chain management processes.
- IS/IT governance and management: These papers focus on the management and governance of IS/IT solutions in the supply chain, including issues such as data security, compliance, and risk management. They can provide insights into best practices for managing and governing IS/IT solutions in the supply chain context.

Each of the categories I've listed above provides a different perspective on the use of IS/IT in supply chain management and can help to highlight different aspects of the research. For example, papers that focus on the strategic alignment of IS/IT solutions can provide insight into how organizations can effectively align their IS/IT solutions with their strategic goals and objectives to improve supply chain performance. Papers that focus on the management of the IS/IT adoption process can provide insight into best practices for managing the adoption and maintenance of IS/IT solutions in the supply chain management context. Papers that focus on the organizational context of IS/IT adoption can provide insight into how different organizational contexts may impact the adoption and effective use of IS/IT solutions in the supply chain management.

Additionally, papers that focus on the impact of IS/IT on supply chain performance can provide insight into how organizations can measure and improve the impact of IS/IT on their supply chain performance. Papers that focus on IS/IT adoption and diffusion can provide insight into how organizations can effectively adopt and diffuse IS/IT solutions in their supply chain management processes. Papers that focus on IS/IT governance and management can provide insight into best practices for managing and governing IS/IT solutions in the supply chain context.

In this research paper, a critical examination of the existing literature on the use of IS/IT in supply chain integration has been presented. The literature review has highlighted several strategic frameworks that have been proposed for examining the adoption and use of IS/IT in the organizational context. These frameworks have provided valuable insights into the various factors that influence the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration, including the organizational context, specific IS/IT solutions being adopted, strategic alignment of the IS/IT solution, and management of the IS/IT adoption process.

However, it is important to note that the literature on this topic is still relatively limited, and there is a need for further research to be conducted in order to fully understand the impact of IS/IT on supply chain integration. Additionally, the frameworks presented in the literature primarily focus on the technical aspects of IT adoption, and there is a need to also consider the human and organizational factors that impact the success of IT implementation in supply chain integration.

Overall, the criteria used in this literature review provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration. However, it is important to note that the effectiveness of IT in supply chain integration depends on the specific context of the organization and the technology

being adopted. Therefore, organizations must carefully evaluate the specific needs of their supply chain and the available technology options in order to make informed decisions about IT adoption.

Overall, the results of this research could be used to develop a model for the effective use of IT in SCM that takes into account the ongoing nature of IT adoption and maintenance. This model would provide a systematic approach for organizations to follow in order to effectively adopt and use IT in their supply chain management processes. The model could include various components such as identifying the most suitable IT systems for an organization's specific needs, implementing and maintaining these systems in an efficient manner, and continuously evaluating and adjusting the systems to ensure alignment with the evolving business needs.

This model could be tested and refined through further research, by collecting data from various organizations across different industries and analyzing the results. This would provide valuable insights into the practical implementation of IT in SCM and help to validate the model. Additionally, this model could be used as a benchmark for organizations, to guide their IT adoption and maintenance process and improve their supply chain performance.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, this literature review has highlighted the significant impact that the development of information systems/information technology (IS/IT) has had on supply chain management (SCM) in recent years. The proliferation of ICTs has led to the widespread adoption of IS/IT in SCM, allowing organizations to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and increase responsiveness to changing market conditions.

The literature reviewed has shown that IS/IT has had a significant impact on various aspects of SCM, including logistics and transportation, inventory management, and the integration and collaboration of supply chain networks. The use of location-based technologies such as GPS has enabled more efficient and effective routing and scheduling of shipments, resulting in reduced transportation costs and improved delivery times. Advanced forecasting algorithms and real-time data analytics have allowed organizations to better predict demand and optimize inventory levels. Platforms such as cloud computing and blockchain have facilitated greater collaboration and information sharing among supply chain partners, resulting in increased transparency and efficiency.

However, the development and implementation of new IS/IT solutions for SCM also poses challenges and risks for organizations, including the potential for technical failures or cyber-attacks. It is therefore important for organizations to carefully consider the costs and benefits of implementing new IS/IT solutions, as well as the potential risks and challenges. External factors, including regulatory and legal considerations, industry standards and norms, and the evolving needs and expectations of customers and other stakeholders, have also influenced the development of IS/IT for SCM.

Overall, this literature review has demonstrated the crucial role that IS/IT plays in the ongoing management and evolution of supply chains. Organizations need to keep track of these advancements and develop strategies to adopt them effectively. A holistic and advanced framework is proposed to manage the IS/IT adoption in the organizational context. Future research could be conducted to test the proposed framework using case studies and to explore the implications of IS/IT for SCM in different industries and contexts. Additionally, more research could be done to examine the specific challenges and risks associated with IS/IT implementation in SCM and to develop strategies for addressing them. With the ongoing advancements in technology, it is important for organizations to continue to evaluate and incorporate new IS/IT solutions in order to stay competitive in an ever-changing business environment.

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