SKU classification: A literature review and conceptual framework

Purpose: Stock Keeping Unit (SKU) classifications are widely used in the field of production and operations management. Although many theoretical and practical examples of classifications exist, there are no overviews of the current literature, and general guidelines are lacking with respect to method selection for classifying SKUs. The purpose of this paper is to systematically synthesise the earlier work in this area, and to conceptualise and discuss the factors that influence the choice of a specific SKU classification.

Design/methodology/approach: This paper structurally reviews existing contributions and synthesises these into a conceptual framework for SKU classification. Findings: How SKUs are classified depends on the classification aim, the context and the method that is chosen. Three main production and operations management aims where found: inventory management, forecasting and production strategy. Within the method three decisions are identified to come to a classification: the characteristics, the classification technique and the operationalisation of the classes. Research limitations/implications: Drawing on our literature survey, we conclude with a conceptual framework describing the factors that influence SKU classification. Further research could use this framework to develop guidelines for real-life applications. Practical implications: Examples from a variety of industries and general directions are provided that which managers could use to develop their own SKU classification. Originality/value: This paper aims to advance the literature on SKU classification from the level of individual examples to a conceptual level and provides directions on how to develop a SKU classification.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Management Engineering, Production and Service Management, University of Groningen
Contributors: van Kampen, T. J., Akkerman, R., van Donk, D. P.
Pages: 850-876
Publication date: 2012
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Volume: 32
Issue number: 7
ISSN (Print): 0144-3577
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2019): Indexed yes
BFI (2018): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 2.955
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 4.21 SJR 2.052 SNIP 1.571
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 2.955
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 4.11 SJR 2.284 SNIP 2.094
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 3.63 SJR 2.062 SNIP 2.033
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 2.252
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 3.15 SJR 1.87 SNIP 1.626
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 1.736
BFI (2013): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 2.6 SJR 1.312 SNIP 1.72
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 1.518
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 2.83 SJR 1.887 SNIP 1.736
Web of Science (2012): Impact factor 1.252
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes