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Strategic Support Systems for Crisis Management: A Literature Review

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Strategic Support Systems for Crisis Management: A Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

This monograph presents a literature review of Strategic Decision Support Systems (SDSS) used in various fields such as transport, trade, logistics, medicine and education. The main objective of these systems is to provide information to decision makers to mitigate various influences. The chosen case study of this monograph is COVID-19 crisis management, which is an example that has an impact on sectors such as health, education, economy, the environment, and others. It aims to identify critical dependencies and how to develop efficient solutions. In particular, this monograph explores the problem of support for the strategic planning decision making during COVID-19 crisis management.

Keywords: Strategic decision support systems; COVID-19 crisis management; Strategic planning; Strategic management; Generative AI.

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1

Introduction

Crisis management is a strategy-based approach by implementing certain steps to reduce an unanticipated event's negative effects or any negative disruption with the potential to harm business processes, people or property. There are several types of crises that have appeared in recent years: Technological crisis (Google in December 2020), Organizational crisis (Wells Fargo in 2020), and Natural crisis (COVID-19 in December 2019). COVID-19 is a complex catastrophe that has caused immense disruption across the globe. The first case of coronavirus was reported on December 1st, 2019, in Wuhan, China before expanding to the rest of the world in early 2020. During this time, countries have reacted differently to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the one hand, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economic development of various countries (Meyer *et al.*, 2022). Regarding SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) crisis strategy, Klyver and Nielsen (2021) provide some preliminary empirical evidence on the most promising crisis strategies to manage the COVID-19 crisis. Several solutions have been suggested during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as several innovations (Sharmaa *et al.*, 2022; Brem *et al.*, 2021; Lee *et al.*, 2020). Sharmaa *et al.* (2022) proposes

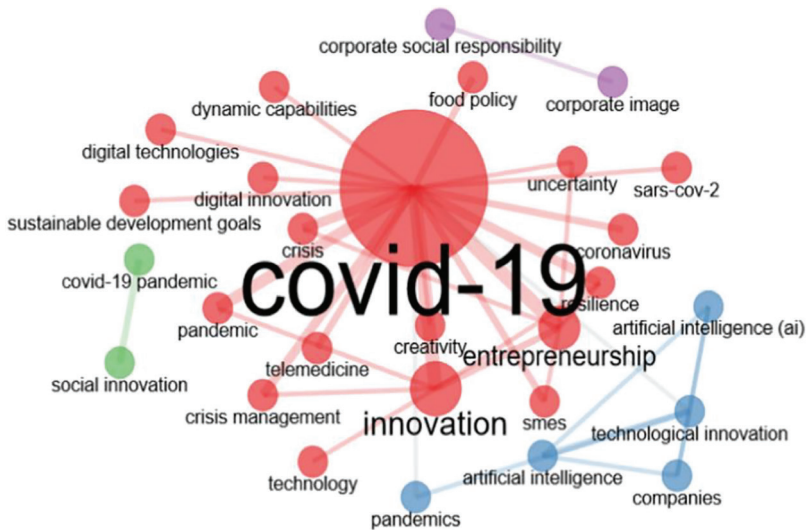


Figure 1.1: Used methodology for searching and selecting papers.

a quantitative approach by filtering papers in the Scopus database using keywords related to innovation in the time of COVID-19, and through the use of the Bibliometrics R-tool in order to emphasize the importance of innovation during the pandemic. Figure 1.1 represents an overview of the keywords network analysis where the larger nodes represent the more frequent occurrence and the lines connecting these nodes show co-occurrences.

Social media allowed organizations and governments to deal with the crisis in the early stage of the pandemic. Chon and Kim (2022) proposed a theory-grounded framework for using social media analytics during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S to investigate how a potential issue becomes a government crisis. An overview of their study is shown in Figure 1.3. This study presents a model emphasizing the role of issues management in the digital age. It is defined by Chon and Kim (2022) and it is based on the public relations model of strategic management (Grunig *et al.*, 2002).

On the other hand, since the pandemic's breakout the artificial intelligence (Ahmad *et al.*, 2022; Chamola *et al.*, 2020) as well as data analytic technologies (Shahparvari *et al.*, 2022; Wamba *et al.*, 2020)

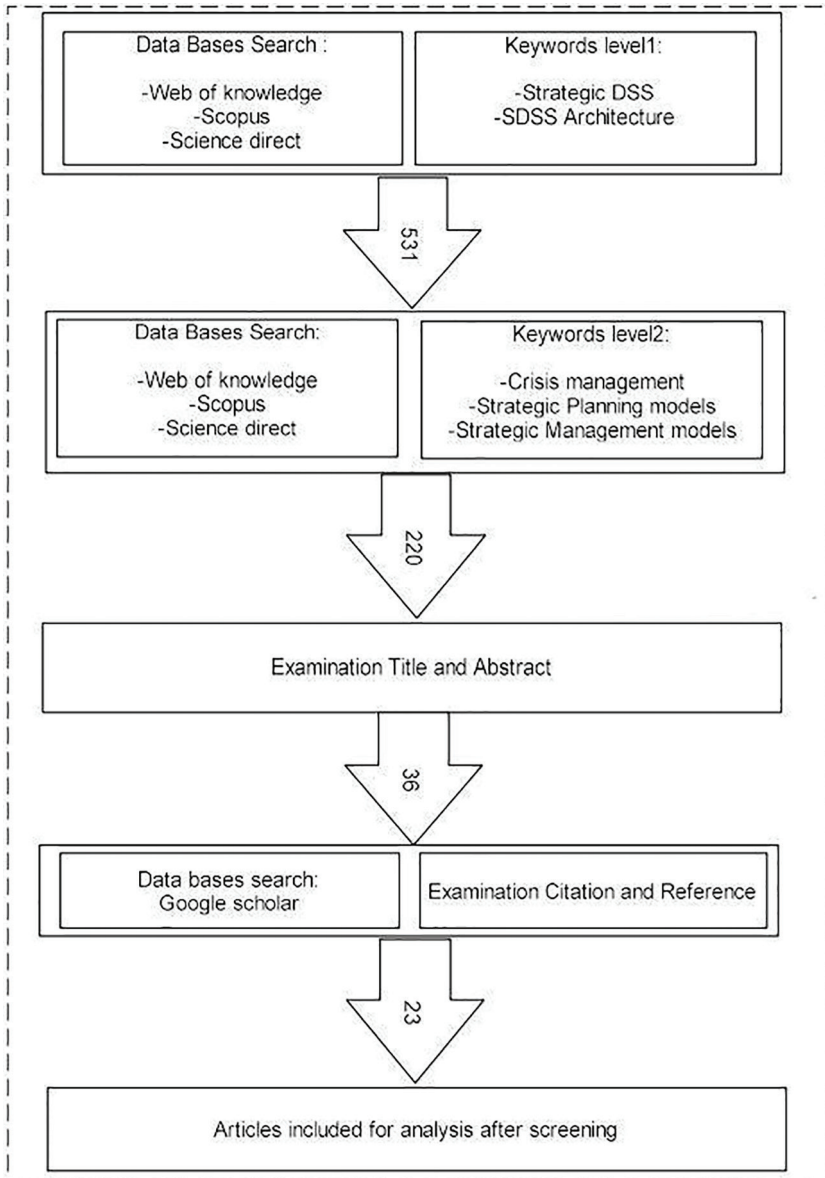


Figure 1.2: Keywords network analysis map (Sharmaa *et al.*, 2022).

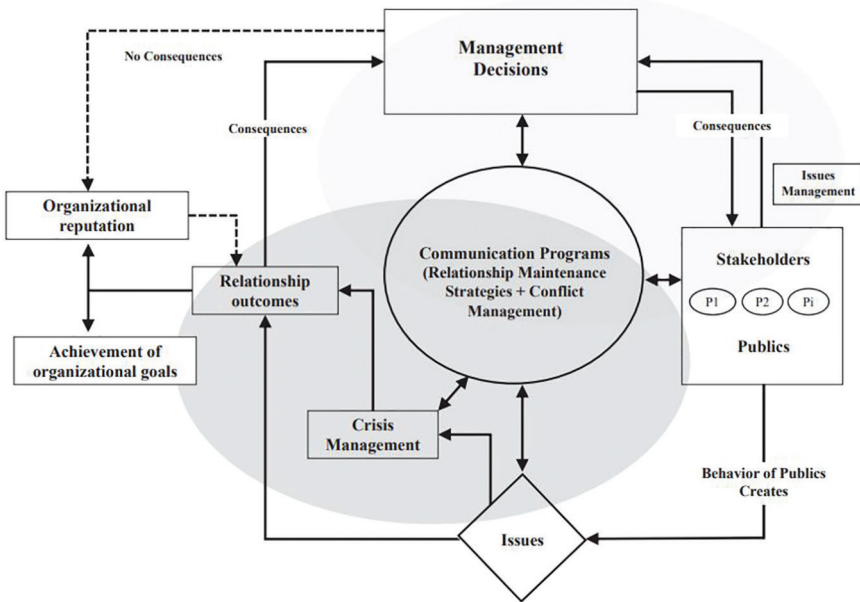


Figure 1.3: Model of strategic management of public relations (Chon and Kim, 2022).

have opened up new possibilities to assist in scientific research and create a wide variety of relevant data. Ahmad *et al.* (2022) proposed an improved convolutional neural network (CNN) model for the detection of COVID-19 disease from chest X-ray images leveraged by a human-machine system using deep learning techniques.

Since this period, there exists a growing body of literature on crisis management. For instance, Aussilloux *et al.* (2021) presents a report that defines a thorough comparison and in-depth analysis of the emergency and recovery plans announced by European countries.

However, so far, Strategic Decision Support Systems (SDSS) have become important despite deployment complexity, and have been widely incorporated in many specialized areas like the medical domain (Shahparvari *et al.*, 2022), logistics (Kamariotou *et al.*, 2017; Henrik *et al.*, 2008), transport (Barfod and Salling, 2015), and industry (Agostino *et al.*, 2020), and with several terminologies such as strategic management (Bader and Alyoubi, 2015), strategic planning (Tunčikienė *et al.*, 2010),

etc. In this monograph, we present a literature review of SDSS, their general concepts, and how they were incorporated during the COVID-19 pandemic to help managers make decisions. This monograph is an extended version of Elandalousi and Zaraté (2023), including a detailed analysis of COVID-19 pandemic management. Elandalousi and Zaraté (2023) define a literature review to enable SDSS for crisis management. Defining the research question involves analyzing the literature review on Strategic Decision Support Systems (SDSS) and crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic. This process helps identify connections and overlaps between these two areas. By understanding how SDSS has been used in managing crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, we can better formulate a focused and relevant research question.

The rest of this monograph is divided into seven sections as follows. We begin by discussing a comprehensive methodology for the literature review. Then, we offer an overview of our study background. Section 4 is devoted to discussing a brief description of the most important studies in SDSS technologies. In Section 5 SDSS models are presented. Next, we explore the application of generative AI, specifically ChatGPT, in the context of pandemic decision support systems by highlighting its role during the COVID-19 pandemic. Section 7 encompasses a brief discussion of our conducted surveys. Finally, in Section 8 we summarize the study and point out some concluding remarks.

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