

Designing an Open Innovation Framework for Digital Transformation Based on Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

Background: Innovation is a critical success factor of digital transformation (DX). Previous research has shown that open innovation (OI) can help companies accelerate DX and improve their business performance.

Objective: This study develops a conceptual OI framework to support DX (OIDX) and provides an overview of the dimensions. OI in this study refers to Open Innovation 2.0.

Methods: We review previous research on OI dimensions, identify the activities, and map them along with the challenges that lead to failure. With this, we develop a framework to meet the needs and solve problems of OI implementation.

Results: The OIDX framework has a comprehensive dimensional scope consisting of three perspectives, eight dimensions, and 26 sub-dimensions. The perspectives are enablers, activities, and output, and the dimensions are OI governance, external environment, internal climate, digital technology, importing mechanisms, collaboration, protection mechanisms, and export mechanisms.

Conclusion: This study highlights the importance of defining dimensions to establish General System Theory. The practical application of this framework is to build an OI ecosystem that can increase the internal and external values of an organisation. The OI framework provides OI success parameters and criteria for building the OI maturity framework in future research.

Keywords: DX, Innovation, Open Innovation, Open Innovation Framework

Article history: Received 5 April 2022, first decision 22 April 2022, accepted 22 August 2022, available online 28 October 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

Organisations today recognise the value of organisational transformation through the adoption of digital technologies into their business processes, as it can maximise efficiency and generate new revenue streams [1]. Many organisations are now gearing toward DX to improve efficiency and add value to their products and services. As a result of DX and the resulting business model innovation, consumer expectations and behaviours have fundamentally changed. This shift has disrupted markets and put pressure on traditional firms [2]. Changing customer journeys due to technological disruption have also altered business landscapes [3] as they now have access to various media channels and interact with businesses and other consumers directly, hence encountering more touchpoints in their customer journey, many of which are digital [2]. Many traditional firms suffer as they are surpassed by innovative, fast-growing digital entrants that can keep up with the changes.

Teichert [4] stated that innovation in DX includes competencies that allow for more versatility, the development of disruptive and consumer-centric innovations, business architectures, agile methodology, financing innovation, and performance standards. Innovation in business frameworks means an ecosystem that connects various parties to increase each other's value. Companies can collaborate in a mutual partnership to develop various innovations and maintain sustainability in the digital economy era. Open innovation (OI) will support this collaboration.

Since innovation in Chesbrough's publication was open [5], scholarly interest has mainly focused on knowledge sharing and co-creation advantages. OI is defined as "a distributed innovation process based on asserted competencies empowering a more adaptable way of working, advancement of disruptive innovation architectures, use of agile

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approach, involving consumers in the process of innovation, financing innovation, and performing standard on purposefully managed knowledge flows across organizational boundaries" [6]. Past research has tried and tested all aspects of OI, starting with the 'openness' [7] to the intersections of knowledge flows [8]. The studies have been undertaken from the personal and collective to the inter-organisational, industry, and national levels [8]. Some of the findings highlight the role of readiness at the organisational level [6] as it can support or hinder partnerships with external partners and move innovation from close to open [9]. The innovation environment has moved from linear to parallel or cross-sectional frameworks involving multiple disciplines [10]. In other words, the paradigm has shifted [11]. The innovation modes are illustrated in Fig. 1.

| HOW INNOVATION MODES HAVE EVOLVED | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Closed Innovation | Open Innovation | Open Innovation 2.0 |
| Dependency | Independency | Interdependency |
| Subcontracting | Cross-licensing | Cross-fertilization |
| Solo | Bilateral | Ecosystem |
| Linear | Linear, leaking | Nonliemar mash-up |
| Linear subcontractors | Bilateral | Triple or quadruple helix |
| Planning | Validation, pilots | Experimentation |
| Control | Management | Orchestration |
| Win-lose game | Win-win game | Win more-win more |
| Box thinking | Out of the box | No boxes! |
| Single entity | Single discipline | Interdisciplinary |
| Value chain | Value network | Value constellation |

Fig. 1 Innovation modes (adapted from Markkula [12])

The OI and OI 2.0 (OI2) frameworks are considered the most appropriate in DX, which aims to elaborate the use of digital technology and business frameworks [13], and improve a company’s performance. OI help achieve this by creating a business ecosystem that connects companies, customers, suppliers, and the government. With this, DX can increase value through the inbound, outbound, and coupled innovation processes [14]. Our literature review shows that research on the development of OI frameworks in DX is scarce. Therefore, this study aims to design an OI framework for DX to identify the dimensions or critical success factors. OI in this study refers to OI 2.0, and the two research questions are:

RQ1. What dimensions of the Open Innovation for Digital Transformation (OIDX) framework?

RQ2. What main activities in OIDX?

Literature was reviewed to identify the OIDX dimensions to answer the two research questions. The results of this study are explained using General Systems Theory [15]. This study aims to provide a more holistic view of the OIDX framework to guide organisational-level implementation. Theoretically, the findings can enhance literature in General System Theory [15].

II. METHODS

To design the OIDX framework, we conducted a systematic literature review (SLR) of the existing literature. We used keyword search strategies: “open innovation”, “open innovation dimension”, “open innovation maturity”, and “open innovation framework” on the “SCOPUS” research database between 2006 and 2022. The search process is illustrated in Fig. 2.

In the SLR, we found 30 papers from reputable journals in the top tiers (first to third quartiles), with 90% ranked in the first tier (Q1), 6.7% in the second tier (Q2), and 3.3% in the third tier (Q3). We then mapped the dimensions using taxonomy in the OI framework proposed by [16], consisting of three perspectives—enablers, activities, and outputs—and interrelated dimensions and sub-dimensions. We found three perspectives, eight dimensions, and 26 sub-dimensions relevant to OIDX. This differs from the framework in [16], which consists of three perspectives, six dimensions, and 19 sub-dimensions. The following summary of the mapping results can be found in Table 1.

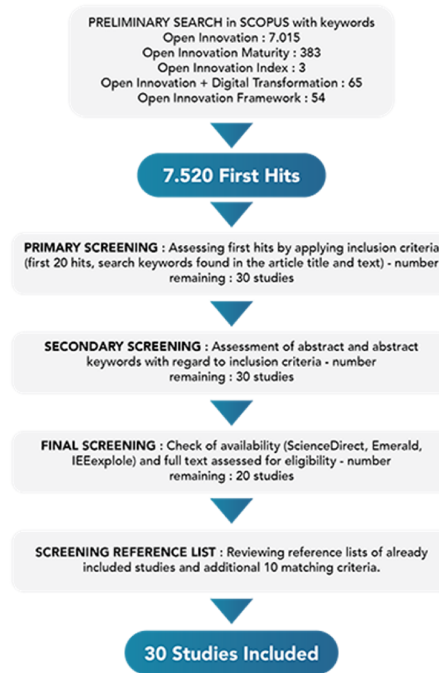


Fig. 2 The search process of SLR related to OI dimensions

TABLE 1
 DIMENSION MAPPING FROM PREVIOUS RESEARCH RESULTS

| Dimension | No | Sub Dimension | References |
|---------------------------------|----|---|--|
| A. Enablers Perspective | | | |
| Open | 1 | OI/Innovation Strategy | [17] |
| Innovation/Innovation Corporate | 2 | Organisational Design | [18][17] |
| Governance | 3 | Controls | [17] |
| | 4 | Business Model Management | [18][17] |
| | 5 | OI Process | [17] |
| Outer Environment | 6 | Public Support | [7] [19] [20] |
| | 7 | Government Support | [21] [22] |
| Internal Climate | 8 | Idiosyncrasies of the Industry | [23] [24] |
| | 9 | Human Capital | [25][26] [27] [28] [29][30] |
| | 10 | Climate Culture | [31] [32] [33] [18] |
| | 11 | Entrepreneurship | [18] |
| Digital Technology | 12 | Openness | [34][18] |
| | 13 | Affordance | [34] [18] |
| | 14 | Generativity | [34] [18] |
| B. Outputs Perspective | | | |
| Collaboration | 15 | Collaboration Portfolio Varieties | [35] [27] [36][19] [37] [33] [20] [38][18] |
| | 16 | Co-Creation Value | [9] |
| Importing Mechanisms | 17 | Forms (Heterogeneous and Homogeneous alliances; Joint ventures; Networking; Co-patenting) | [35] [39] [40] |
| | 18 | Innovation ecosystem | [41][37] [42] |
| | 19 | Knowledge Management | [43] [7][33] [20] |
| | 20 | Project management capabilities | [44] [18] |
| | 21 | Finance Management | [45] |
| Protecting Mechanisms | 22 | Protection methods | [46] [47] |
| | 23 | Risk Management | [20] |
| C. Outputs Perspective | | | |
| Exporting Mechanisms | 24 | Commercialisation of Internal Knowledge | [47] [48] [45] |
| | 25 | Innovation Performance | [48] [45] |
| | 26 | Innovation Productivity | [48] [45] |

III. RESULTS

We propose a conceptual OIDX framework from the OI dimension identification to answer RQ1. The conceptual framework aims to describe independent and dependent variables that affect and contribute to the success of the OIDX application. The conceptual framework we propose is in Fig. 3.

The conceptual framework proposes OI as one of the variables determining the success of OIDX, which means there are other independent variables affecting the success of DX. Zooming in, the framework consists of four perspectives, eight dimensions, and 26 sub-dimensions as independent variables. ‘Enablers’ is the dependent variable of the relationship between OI governance, external environment, internal climate, and digital technology. Meanwhile, ‘activities’ modulate the interaction between importing mechanisms, collaboration, and protection mechanisms. Investigation mechanisms, commercialisation of internal know-how, and innovation performance and productivity are linked to output as a dependent variable.

Organisations must undertake main activities in each dimension to implement OIDX effectively (and answer RQ2). These main activities can be used as guidance for companies to delegate tasks to each related work unit. In other words, the application of OIDX is not only a function of the research and development (R&D) division but an orchestrated effort of all work units. The main activities of each dimension become an integral part of every work unit to the point where they cannot carry out business processes without them. The main activities in each dimension are in Table 2.

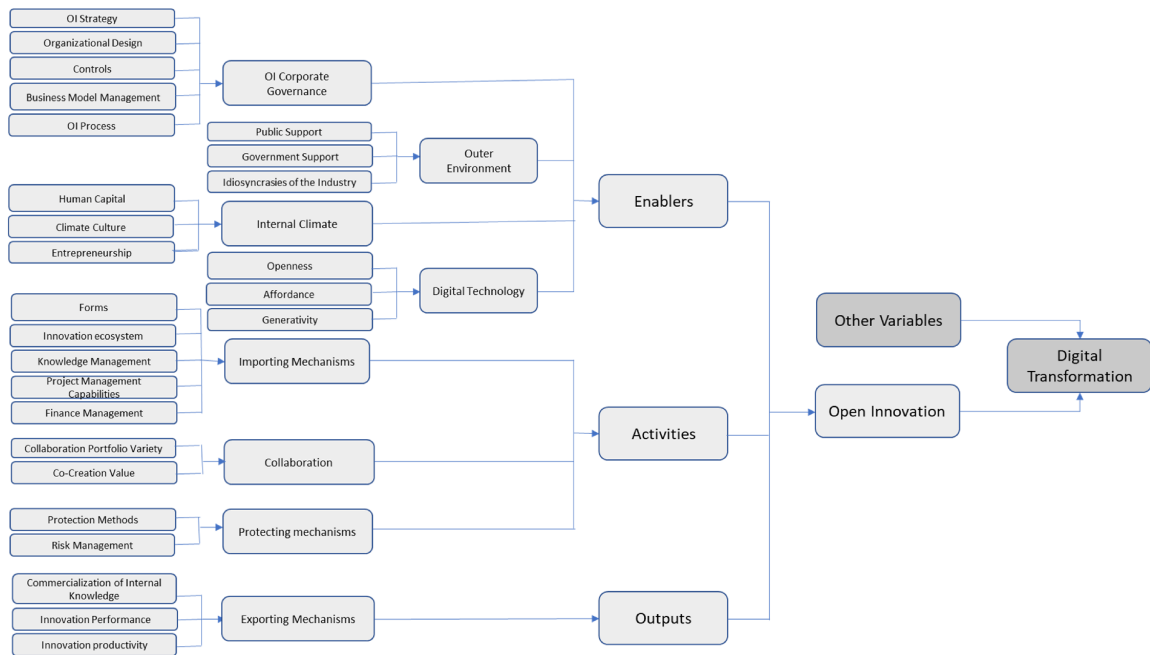


Fig. 3 Conceptual framework of OIDX

IV. DISCUSSION

Following the General System Theory [15], the OIDX framework in this study consists of three perspectives, nine dimensions, and 26 sub-dimensions overlapped in an interrelated system. We propose the main activity dimension as a starting point for detailing business activities and processes to increase the framework's effectiveness. As such, OIDX dimensions play a key role in improving the quality of OI as a system.

This framework can help companies implement OI as it encourages involving internal and external parties and enhances the value of products and services. In relation to RQ1, this framework can guide in managing the perspectives of enablers, activities, and outputs, consisting of eight dimensions and 26 sub-dimensions. This framework adopted the core characteristics of the OI 2.0 paradigm. The quadruple helix model prevents working in silos and unites the government, businesses, academic institutions, and social parties to work collaboratively, driving systemic changes beyond what companies or individuals could do on their own [12]. In the case of dramatic transformation such as DX, collaboration gives advantages because companies can move more quickly, share risk, and pool resources [12].

TABLE 2
 PROPOSED MAIN ACTIVITIES OF OIDX DIMENSIONS

| Dimension | Sub Dimension | Proposed Main Activities |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| A. Enablers Perspective | | |
| OI/Innovation Corporate Governance | OI/Innovation Strategy | The company formulates an OI strategy for DX to achieve corporate sustainability |
| | Organisational Design | The company has an organisational structure that can support the development of sustainable innovation |
| | Controls | The company controls the implementation of sustainable innovation by using a metric |
| | Business Model Management | The company develops a business model that can support the formation of a sustainable OI |
| | OI Process | The company formulates an effective OI process that can be applied internally and collaborates with external parties |
| Outer Environment | Public Support | The company builds partnerships with the community to contribute to the innovation in the company |
| | Government Support | The company builds partnerships with the government (central/local government/regulators) to contribute to the innovation in the company |
| | Idiosyncrasies of the Industry | The company builds partnerships with related industries to contribute to the innovation in the company |
| Internal Climate | Human Capital | The company has a strategy to manage HR competencies in creating sustainable innovation |
| | Climate Culture | The company has a strategy of building a culture of innovation to realise business continuity |
| | Entrepreneurship | The company builds HR entrepreneurial values, such as pushing boundaries and taking on new challenges |
| Digital Technology | Openness | The company manages technology that can be accessed by external parties (community, industry, partners, etc.) to collaborate on an innovation |
| | Affordance | The company manages the right and safe technology that can be accessed by external parties (community, industry, partners, etc.) to collaborate on an innovation |
| | Generativity | The company manages technology by following best practice |
| B. Activities Perspective | | |
| Collaboration | Collaboration Portfolio Varieties | The company has a strategy for developing collaboration portfolios with various parties |
| | Co-Creation Value | The company develops a co-creation value strategy with various parties to support business continuity |
| Importing Mechanisms | Forms (heterogeneous and homogeneous alliances, joint ventures, networking, co-patenting innovation ecosystem) | The company develops cooperative alliances with various parties in developing innovation |
| | Knowledge Management | The company has a strategy to build a sustainable innovation ecosystem to improve performance |
| | Project Management Capabilities | The company has effective knowledge management to absorb information/knowledge from inside and outside of the company |
| | Finance Management | The company develops project management capabilities to maintain product and service development innovation initiatives |
| | Finance Management | The company manages finances to support the implementation of sustainable innovation |
| Protecting Mechanisms | Protection Methods | Companies formulate innovation protection strategies so as not to harm the company |
| | Risk Management | The company manages a risk management process to control losses from factors that cause innovation failure |
| C. Outputs Perspective | | |
| Exporting Mechanisms | The Commercialisation of Internal Knowledge | The company has a strategy and governance in commercialising innovation to increase the business added value |
| | Innovation Performance | The company manages innovation performance to support the realisation of company performance |
| | Innovation Productivity | The company continues to develop innovation productivity to build sustainable innovation |

Regarding RQ2, organisations with greater innovative capabilities could immediately seize potential markets and rapidly respond to dynamic environments and customer demands [49], establish and sustain competitive advantages, and contribute to the economy [50].

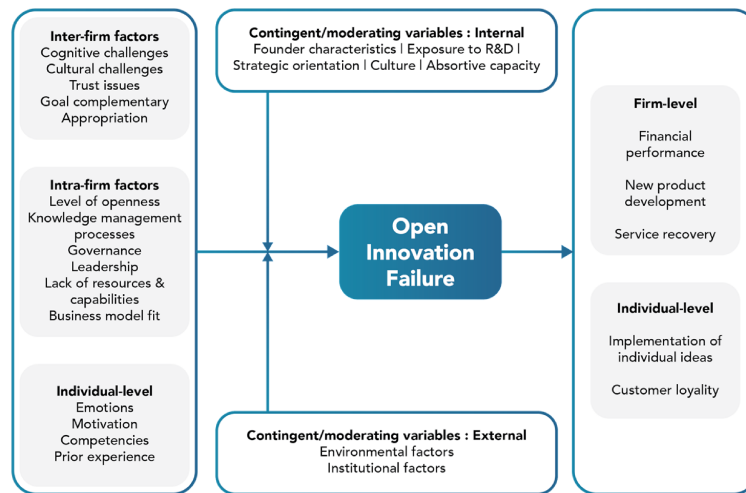


Fig. 4 Conceptual framework of open innovation failure (adapted from Chaudhary et al.[51])

The OIDX framework also identifies the challenges that can cause OI implementation failure. Several researchers have identified the challenges [51] [48]. Chaudhary et al. [51] stated that the challenges include internal, intra-company, and individual factors. Moderating variables that influence internal factors include founder attributes, exposure to R&D, strategic alignment, culture, and knowledge transfer. Meanwhile, environmental and institutional factors as moderating variables impact the external forces. The challenges that can cause the failure of the implementation of OI can be described in Fig. 4.

The OIDX framework can help organisations to respond to challenges that may lead to the failure of OI implementation [51]. The mapping of the dimensions of this framework with various aspects that cause the failure of OI implementation is detailed in the Table 3.

TABLE 3
 MAPPING OF OI IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES BY OIDX DIMENSIONS

| Challenges in Open Innovation | Dimension and Sub-dimension of OIDX |
|--|--|
| A. Inter-firm factors | |
| Cognitive challenges | Entrepreneurship |
| Culture challenges | Climate Culture |
| Trust issues | Controls, Climate Culture |
| Goal complementary | Innovation Productivity |
| B. Intra-firm factors | |
| Level of openness | Openness, Affordance, Generativity |
| Knowledge management process | Knowledge Management |
| Governance | OI Corporate Governance |
| Leadership | Organizational Design |
| Lack of resources and capabilities | Human Capital, Entrepreneurship |
| Business model fit | Business Model Management |
| C. Individual level | |
| Emotions | Control |
| Motivations | OI Strategy |
| Competencies | Human Capital, Organizational Design, Project Management Competency |
| Prior experience | Innovation Productivity, Innovation Performance, Organisational Design |
| D. Moderating variables: internal | |
| Founder characteristic | OI Strategy |
| Exposure to R&D | Organizational Design, Risk Management, Control |
| Strategic orientation | OI Strategy |
| Culture | Climate Culture |
| Absorptive capacity | Knowledge Management |
| E. Moderating variables: external | |
| Environmental | OI Process, Collaboration Portfolio Variety, Innovation Ecosystem |
| Institutional | OI Process, Innovation Ecosystem |

The OIDX framework was adopted from research by [16], i.e., the perspectives, dimensions, and sub-dimensions. We develop this by reviewing the literature. We found 11 sub-dimensions similar to the dimensions used by [16] and 15 different sub-dimensions. The OIDX framework dimension and sub-dimension mapping in [16] are presented in Table 4.

TABLE 4
 THE COMPARISON BETWEEN OIDX WITH [16]

| Dimension | No | Sub Dimension in This Research | [16] |
|--------------------------------|----|---|------|
| A. Enablers Perspective | | | |
| | 1 | OI/Innovation Strategy | No |
| Open | 2 | Organisational Design | No |
| Innovation/Innovation | 3 | Controls | No |
| Corporate Governance | 4 | Business Model Management | No |
| | 5 | OI Process | No |
| | 6 | Public Support | Yes |
| Outer Environment | 7 | Government Support | Yes |
| | 8 | Idiosyncrasies of the Industry | Yes |
| | 9 | Human Capital | Yes |
| Internal Climate | 10 | Climate Culture | Yes |
| | 11 | Entrepreneurship | |
| | 12 | Openness | Yes |
| Digital Technology | 13 | Affordance | No |
| | 14 | Generativity | No |
| B. Outputs Perspective | | | |
| Collaboration | 15 | Collaboration Portfolio Varieties | Yes |
| | 16 | Co-Creation Value | No |
| | 17 | Forms (Heterogeneous and Homogeneous alliances; Joint ventures; Networking; Co-patenting) | Yes |
| Importing Mechanisms | 18 | Innovation ecosystem | No |
| | 19 | Knowledge Management | Yes |
| | 20 | Project management capabilities | No |
| | 21 | Finance Management | No |
| Protecting Mechanisms | 22 | Protection methods | Yes |
| | 23 | Risk Management | No |
| C. Outputs Perspective | | | |
| Exporting Mechanisms | 24 | Commercialization of Internal Knowledge | Yes |
| | 25 | Innovation Performance | No |
| | 26 | Innovation Productivity | No |

V. CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this research is to design a conceptual framework for OIDX. The results produce a conceptual framework of three perspectives, eight dimensions, and 26 sub-dimensions. We argue that this framework has a broader scope for building an OI ecosystem to support DX. In developing the theoretical framework, this study highlights the importance of defining main activity dimensions as components in General System Theory. In managerial applications, organisations can apply this framework to develop sustainable innovations to make DX successful. This framework can also help provide solutions to challenges that can lead to failure. Further research needs to measure the effectiveness of each perspective and dimension in supporting the success of OI. Another research direction is building an Open Innovation Capability Maturity Model (OI-CMM) to measure the OI maturity level as a basis for designing OI strategies and implementing roadmaps to support DX.

Author Contributions: *Abdurrahman*: Conceptualisation, Methodology, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review and Editing, Supervision. *Aurik Gustomo*: Review of research methodology. *Eko Agus Prasetyo*: Review in Open Innovation Framework. *Sonny Rustiadi*: Review in Open Innovation Conceptual.

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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