

# **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF KT: WHERE ARE WE? A Policy Perspective**

**Robert F. Rich  
University of Illinois**

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# THEORETICAL FOUNDATION OF KT AS IT RELATES TO PUBLIC POLICY

- **The traditional input-output model (descriptive + linear)**
- **“Factors Affecting Utilization” framework (not predictive, at the best correlative)**
- **“Two Communities Theory” (not really a theory, but a metaphor)**
- **Bureaucratic Politics Framework**
- **Newer and promising areas to explore**
  - **Rational decision-making (this involves the entire “knowledge cycle”)**
  - **Cognitive processing of information**
  - **Organizational learning**
  - **Public learning**

# **FOCUS OF INQUIRY FROM A POLICY PERSPECTIVE**

- **How information is created/acquired, disseminated, used**
- **Impact of information on public policy and the policy-making process**
- **The institutionalization of KT into the policy-making process (technology assessment, consensus development, formal “knowledge translation process”)**
- **Knowledge translation (what this represents + why this is significant)**
- **Legitimacy of the KT field**

# **PROMISING AND INTERESTING CHALLENGES FROM A POLICY PERSPECTIVE**

- **Influence of new modes of knowledge translation (e.g., email, text messaging, the internet, etc.)**
- **Electronic and Digital Government**
- **Decision-support systems, data-mining techniques**
- **What “outcome” should we be examining? (simple use of information, “solving a problem,” “change” of policy)**
- **Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of government**
- **Public Learning**

# CONCLUSION: WHERE ARE WE?

- **We have come quite far in terms of recognition and legitimacy**
- **We are even more inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary than we have been in the past**
- **Knowledge acquisition, disseminating/processing and utilization processes are increasingly vital parts of the policy-making process – recognized both by practitioners and scholars**
- **We have advanced our conceptual and measurement tools in this field**
- **There are still major theoretical and measurement challenges which lie ahead**