

A review and classification of empirical research in facilities management

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Abstract

During last decade there has been growing interest in academic research in Facilities Management (FM). The purpose of this paper is to review, evaluate and classify the empirical research that has been published and to analyse how FM research and practice are linked. The data is gathered from articles published in FM-related journals such as Facilities, Journal of Facilities Management, and the Nordic Journal of Surveying and Real Estate Research – Special Series, as well as academic conferences such as the European Research Symposium in Facilities Management and the CIB W70 Symposium. These articles are classified by the FM topics examined in the research, the type of research performed, the data gathering methods used, the background of the authors, the research field and the research sector. The reporting of the methods used, data collection and limitations was inadequate. However, to draw valid conclusions and align FM research methodical issues need to be clearly delineated in research articles. In order to progress, the FM discipline must continue to increasingly employ hypothesis testing and more valid data analysis techniques.