

This paper outlines a serendipitous journey of enquiry whereby a Practice Special Interest Group (PSIG) of innovation professionals' exploration of thought-leadership led to a practical form of knowledge management documenting high-value lessons from their experience within a visual tool based upon an innovation maturity model. Insights are captured, described and implications for innovation practice discussed.

Analysis and interpretation of workshop outputs demonstrated the value of conceptual models for helping practitioners locate themselves within a thought-leader: subject-matter continuum, which in turn led to an exploration of the nature of emergent knowledge around innovation practice which demonstrated the low survival-rate of innovation improvement projects to full maturity and some insights into political resistance to innovation. Key lessons from this exercise include the importance of innovation practitioners negotiating a balanced portfolio of short and long-term projects upon appointment, learning from projects that survive to become business-as-usual, and the power of knowledge maps as a means of integrating and distilling diverse practitioners' emergent and sometimes fractured knowledge about their practice in the form of usable, aggregated practices that change performance and lead to the introduction of new value in organisations.