

DRIVING INNOVATION WITH »WAREHOUSE LOGISTICS«

PARTICIPANTS MEETING 2018
FRAUNHOFER IML

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Topics of the World Café

The ideal implementation sequence of ERP and WMS

The implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning System or a Warehouse Management System usually represents a comprehensive project, which extends over several months and has long-term effects on the company. This applies particularly if both systems are to be implemented. Due to more and more blurring boundaries between the systems as well as individual requirements of the companies, a generally valid strategy regarding the implementation sequence is difficult to formulate. Possible influences on the implementation sequence and their priority are to be discussed as well as a simultaneous implementation of both systems.

Warehouse outsourcing: The role of the WMS

Many companies are faced with the decision to outsource their warehouse to an external service provider for reasons such as cost reduction in logistics or insufficient storage capacity. However, there is not just one way of warehouse outsourcing, but also various approaches. The aim of the World Café is to determine which role the WMS plays in the different outsourcing variants of the warehouse. The expert panel will discuss which IT-relevant and functional requirements the WMS must fulfil in the individual cases and which difficulties arise in the implementation of outsourcing in connection with the WMS.

Digitization of intralogistics - Gap between industry & research

»Never change a running system«. This statement is often used in discussions about ensuring the future viability of a company. The fact that this principle is not always crowned with success is shown by trends & developments in the area of intralogistics. Companies realize increasingly the necessity of upgrading services, procedures and processes. Digitalization represents a driver for innovation and optimization initiatives as well as the necessary technical support for improving procedures and processes in companies. This World Café session encourages the exchange of experiences. To what extent do the warehouses of your customers utilize digitalization and how does the industry define digitalization in the warehouse in general?

Nothing is as constant as the change in logistics

Omni-channel processes, increasing digitalization and ever increasing transparency along the entire supply chain. Logistics processes are constantly changing, and with them the associated WMS processes. The influences of current developments on the WMS are to be discussed.

Optimization of warehouse operations through machine learning in WMS

With the help of machine learning algorithms, programs are enabled to determine patterns and relationships in datasets and to use them to solve problems, for forecasts or for the analysis of unknown data. The algorithms adapt the analysis models autonomously and continuously to changing conditions and can thus improve without being explicitly programmed. These properties also make machine learning algorithms suitable for use in WMS, as the efficiency of logistics systems and processes is increasingly determined by a large number of changing and in some cases unknown variables. At the same time, the increasing integration of information and automation technologies in intralogistics results in larger datasets that can be used as the basis for the algorithms.

Today, the algorithms of machine learning are already being used in WMS, for example, to optimize strategies for storage allocation, routing, warehouse reorganization and order control. The world café table will discuss the status, potentials and challenges of using machine learning algorithms in WMS.