

# **Understanding innovation in creative industries: knowledge bases and innovation performance in art restoration organisations**

de-Miguel-Molina, Blanca; Hervás-Oliver, José Luís; Boix-Domenech, Rafael

## **Abstract**

This paper studies innovation in the creative industry of art restoration, which is characterised by an intensive use of symbolic knowledge. Using the resource-based view of the firm as a theoretical framework, this study adapts Community Innovation Survey (CIS) methodology to this industry, creating and exploiting a unique dataset from the restoration departments of museums in 43 countries on 5 continents. The results suggest that the type and composition of the knowledge bases in play influence a department's absorptive capacity to access external information sources and thereby impact innovative outcomes. The article contributes to innovation literature by capturing innovation processes in a symbolic-based industry.

## **Keywords**

Art restoration, Creative industries, Cultural industries, Innovation, Knowledge bases, Resource-based view, Symbolic-based industry