IT project management has long been a key area of interest among IS scholars and practitioners, since IT projects constitute a key vehicle for IS development and implementation. The significance of this topic for the IS discipline is evident in the number of publications that have addressed different aspects of project management since 1978, when the first two MISQ articles on this topic were published. We have identified 39 publications in MISQ on the topic up to Summer 2020.

IT projects involve developing and/or deploying IT artifacts (comprised of either software, hardware, or both).

IT project management refers to the application of knowledge, skills, techniques, and processes to conduct such projects within agreed-upon parameters (e.g., budget, schedule, scope, quality), and in concert with organizational goals and priorities.

Progression of Research on IT Project Management in MIS Quarterly (Theoretical Perspectives)

- Research is largely atheoretical
- A few articles draw on the concept of cognitive style

First Wave 1978-1992

- Trust theory
- Relational governance
- Transaction cost economics
- Relational exchange theory
- Property rights theory
- Control theory
- Capability maturity
- Message exchange theory
- Theory of planned behavior
- Actor-network theory
- Collaboration networks
- Sensemaking

Second Wave 1993-2007

- Risk analysis
- Goal setting theory
- Escalation of commitment
- Interpersonal conflict
- Knowledge integration

Third Wave 2008-2020

Thematic Advances in Knowledge

1978 - 1992

- Project estimation

1993 - 2007

- Project escalation and de-escalation
- Project contract management

2008 - 2020

- Project control
- Project success/failure/performance
- Project team management