International Journal of Production Research ›
Volume 51, 2013 - Issue 23-24: 50th Volume Anniversary

Articles

Contributions to the design and analysis of cellular manufacturing systems

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Pages 6778-6787 | Received 18 Feb 2013, Accepted 04 Jul 2013, Published online: 08 Aug 2013

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/00207543.2013.825745

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Abstract

The application of group technology concepts to the design and operation of manufacturing cells has had a major impact on improving the performance of multiproduct, moderate volume manufacturing systems. Initially, the research on manufacturing cells focused primarily on methods for identifying rational part families and machine groups using only basic processing data. However, the comprehensiveness of the problem definition and the supporting decision models have evolved over time to include many relevant organisational issues and options. This paper reviews the developments in this area with particular emphasis on the leading contribution of the International Journal of Production Research. Based on those contributions, a more complete, general formulation for the design of manufacturing cells is presented.

Keywords:

group technology | cellular manufacturing | mathematical formulation

Acknowledgements

While all the authors contributing to this field deserve acknowledgement, this author would like to particularly thank Scott Shafer, Gursel Suer, Urban Wemmerlöv and Mingjun Xia for their helpful suggestions that contributed to the content of this article.