
INST

09.05

Assignment given:

Consider the sources of information from your program.

We are in an information based society, comes down to transfer of information.

We are becoming an information-based economy.

Was: A manufacturing-based economy. Look at professions...productions,...mining, farming

Now: Bulk of work is on transferring / processing of information

Result: Less people doing work, more ppl. inv'd with information

Automation of manufacturing : makes information more important

Information: more important, based on change relatively.

What are the information based professions:

Advertising, marketing, research, consulting.

What are the people doing who are involved with this?

Defining Information is difficult.

Like describing gravity...we can describe properties

It is easier to describe the effects and impacts of gravity...

Just as it is easier to describe the effects and impacts of information.

The clock as an information piece.

Radio, newspaper, TV

Agenda: information retrieval list

Red-lights: information devices

Finding this class room: Information searching

Transferring Information

Society is complex, evolving

Technology is out there to handle information

Information used to be very local, rural

Farming techniques...

Now: more global, Inf-based global economy

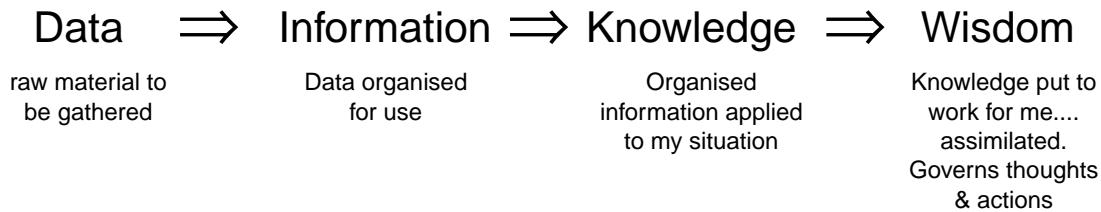
Information can be regarded as a resource

Gathering & organizing information is critical for organizations.

“ Information is power” ... need to know how it is transferred, gathered, processed.
The articles on reserve attempt to define information

No single accurate definition for information...have to know what it is about.

One definition:



Much difficulty to separating information and knowledge...both are constantly interacting.

Knowledge: pertinent to you.

example:

Analysis of an Exam schedule

- Data: The schedule listing
- Information: Data that you need to know ; your course
- Knowledge: What does it tell you? I will plan and study for my exam on those dates
- Wisdom: Planning for the exam, learning from study habits

Transferring information is important to the development of our civilization

Assignment:

Have to find an appropriate dictionary in your discipline.
See if these terms are defined in those dictionaries

09.12

late

Looking at different ways to define information

By some definitions, Information is the raw material / facts & ideas.

Cleveland: a political activist, from the corporate world. [article is on reserve] regards the definition:

- Knowledge : selecting...information that is useful...'expert' in the field
 - Wisdom: integrated knowledge into a whole that is more useful than the sum of its parts.
- Definition of terms can be relative.

Characteristics

1. Information originates in the mind and does not exist outside of the mind.
2. Information is expandable
Information expands as it is being used. (ie. Medical Research)

3. Information is compressible
Can be concentrated, integrated, summarized, miniaturized for easier handling. Can take masses of data and translate it into a formula. Can take years of experience and turn it into a procedure.
4. Information is substitutable.
It can replace capital, labour, and physical materials. (ie.: Agricultural research)
5. Information is transportable
Transferred globally in seconds
6. Information is diffusive
Can be easily leaked
7. Information is sharable.

Meadows:

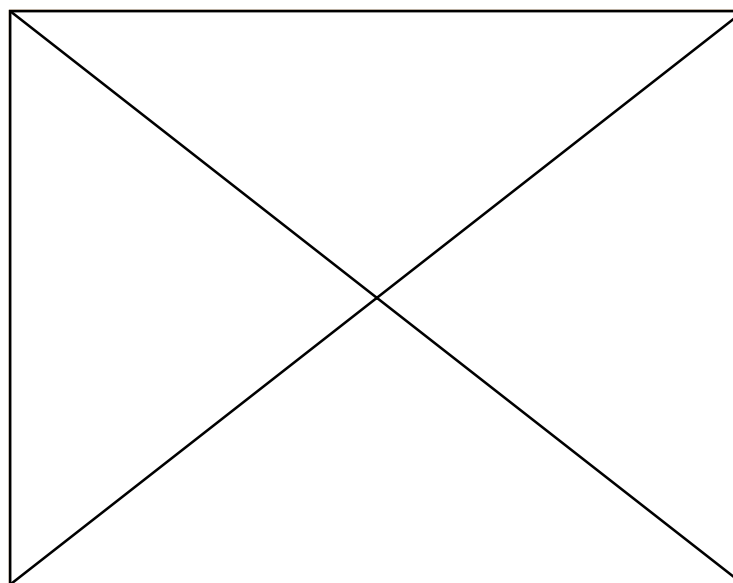
data : strings of symbols

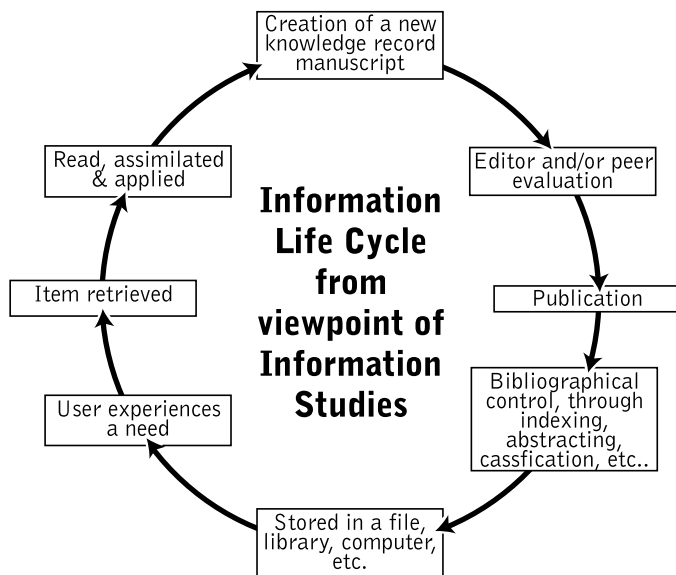
Information: connotation of evaluated, validated or useful data. information to most of us, has meaning, but whatever it is that makes a set of data into information exist is outside the data and in the interpreter.

Operationally then: information is data that changes the state of the system that perceives it.

Knowledge: represents a higher degree of certainty or validity than information connotes understanding. Information shared and agreed upon within a community (professional community, greater community)

Wisdom: provide insight

Information Life cycle

 Information Life Cycle from Viewpoint of Information Studies


A website is an ideal example to apply to the diagram.

Another example of the Information cycle from a Business Communication background

Creation	From data
Communication	Communicated to others who need it turned into value
Use	Use the Information to make decisions
Storage	All information has a temp. storage/life cycle
Disposal	After temp. storage

Resources according to Business

1.Human 2.Capital 3.Physical 4.Information (newest one)

Our sources of Information... there may be some overlaps

Public Information

Television, movies, radio, newspapers, books, Internet, all material that is broadcasted. Very public information, available to all of us. Religion (becomes personal as knowledge)

Personal Information

"Who do I know" Who are some of the people I may be getting particular information from, and not from Public Information

Organizational Information

Government, Institutions, corporate Information, schools, Concordia releases different information to faculty, students (and the public-another category). A company's quarterly report, work, public, student

Professional Information

Information you may have as a member of a particular community. Not talking about the organization (thus would be Organizational)

Commercial Information

Looking at databases, instructional (as per moi), stock info

***Assignment:** list the kinds of information you interact with.

09.19

on time

Read readings

Reviewing the historic development of Information systems in the readings:

Information systems:

Books	Literary	Newspapers	Magazines	Postal system		
Transportation (roads, canals, railroads)				Steamboat		
Printing presses		Telegraph	Typewriter	Mimeograph	Pen	Telephone
Switchboard		Wireless	Dictating machine		WordProcessing	
XeroX	Computers					

Not reviewed: photographs, recorded sound, movies, television

In notes, review from p. 12 of the development of the Mechanical Calculator

“Information goes exponentially”

Want to send more & more information...*faster!*

Information is just there...instantaneous.

We are now experiencing **overload**

look at:	telegraph	telephone	video conferencing
	bits of info	bytes of info	megs of info

*Edward Tanner : mentioned in readings

“We are overwhelmed with information.

Henry James (before Tanner) [1890] : “We have sooo much technology”

John Updike : “So much more information, so much more innane”

*Review Readings, history of technology.
