

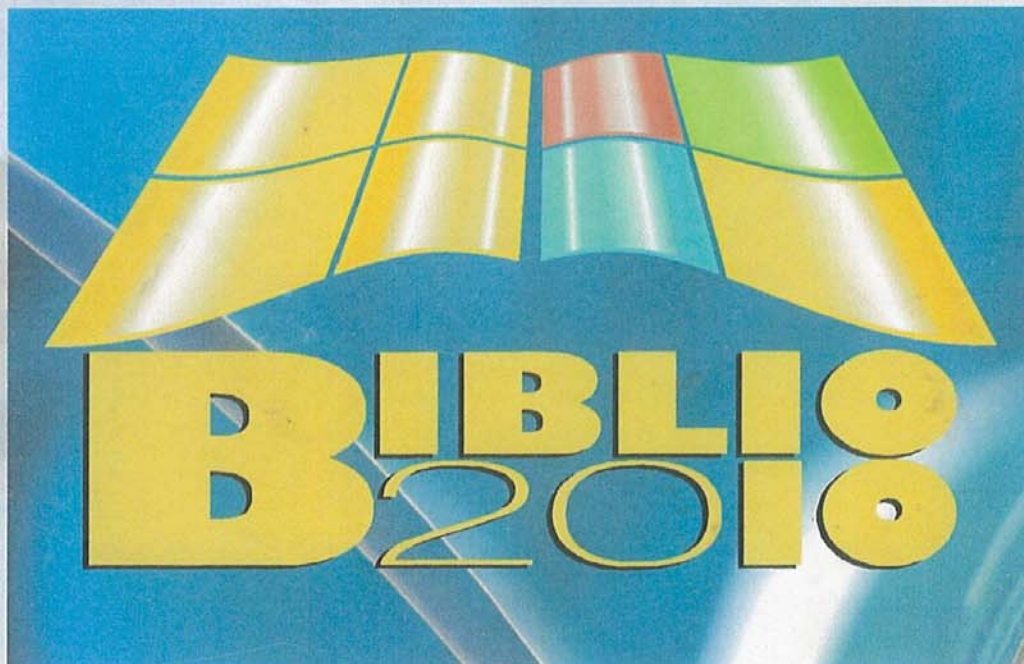


Innovation en Bibliothèques

Innovation within Libraries

Conferinţa Internaţională
de

BIBLIOTECONOMIE ŞI ŞTIINŢA INFORMĂRII



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FRANCOFONĂ A
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DOCUMENTARIȘTILOR



ASOCIAȚIA BIBLIOTECARILOR
DIN ROMÂNIA



UNIVERSITATEA *TRANSILVANIA*
DIN BRAȘOV
BIBLIOTECA



BIBLIOTEC JUDEȚEANĂ
„GEORGE BARIȚIU”
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SOME CONSIDERATIONS OVER THE INFORMATION'S CHARACTER IN THE GLOBALIZATION ERA

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Abstract: *This paper makes a review over the information area, analyzing the definition, the characteristics and the classification of information. It also shows in the conclusions the main elements which have directly connections with information seen from the librarian point of view.*

Key words: *information, the characteristics of information, classification, globalization, library.*

1. Introduction

The most important changes in the humankind evolution are those determined by the birth and the development of the information society which represent the infrastructure of globalization process. The Internet, the informatics and communication systems are struggling to reduce the existent discrepancy and also to increase the development of the economy through setting up software industrial branches, in order to accomplish a fast integration into the digital era.

In the middle of economic crisis, even in our country it is a big demand of IT specialists in the electronic games, that could be remunerated with 3000 euros per month. This thing tells us that if we just stay and wait for something to happen we will never succeed in fighting the bureaucracy and the conservator system which goes to a single way: the regress.

I have to show that the information society is a society of knowledge, being an opportunity especially for people who work in education system. On the other side, the systems and information technologies and the technical equipments and the software are vulnerable to the unauthorized attacks of hackers, to accidental or intentional damages and changes etc. The actual trend regarding the connection to Internet and to the Intranet networks increases the risk of vulnerability, being harder and harder to identify the illegal points of access in the network or the users' with an aggressive behavior.

This paper tries to emphasize the numerous aspects which have an important impact over the organization, the adaptation and specific activities in the library area.

2. The info-documentary expansion at the beginning of the new millennium

Now, at the beginning of the 21st century we are witnesses to a exponential development of the technical-scientific civilization, this development could be used for peaceful or destructive purposes as the humankind did each time with its scientific discoveries.

The information is the vector of which we are hanging up even we wanted or not and which drags us to the ocean named "globalization".

3. The definition and the characteristics of information

The fact that not even today does not exist an accepted definition of *the information* makes that its importance and necessity to rise every day.

I will present some definitions of the well known dictionaries and many Romanian and foreign scientific researchers in the domain which had tried to find the right description of this term.

The explicative dictionary of Romanian language gives us the following definition of *information*: "a communication, a news which informs someone about a new situation, a detail over a person or a thing; the whole of the information and documentation material and sources; each of the new elements reported to actual knowledge contained by the signification of a symbol or a groups of symbols (written text, oral messages, plastic images, indication of an instrument)".[1]

The Larrouse informatics dictionary o gives the following definition: "the main object in the communication of knowledge, information having two aspects: the signification (semantic content) and the structure (syntax)."[2]

The encyclopedic dictionary tells us that *data* is: "expression having a conventional aspect suitable for communication, interpretation or processed by people or automatic technologies."[3]

The investigation over the information has been made during its history by the mathematicians, engineers, biologists, physicians, doctors, philologists, military personel etc.

The information theory was initiated by many Romanian scientists like: Șt. Odobleja, S. Guiașu, R. Theodorescu, V. Săhleanu, M. Drăgănescu, Al. Spătaru și A.T. Murgan, and by foreign scientists of which we could be reminded: R.V.L. Hartley, A. Feinsfein, L. Boltzman și Norbert Wiener. This is the mathematical theory of the general properties of the information sources, of the transmission channels, the technologies for storing and processing the information.

I will present others definitions given to the *information*:

- "it represent a compilation because of its character".(Washington Platt);
- "is the result of collection, evaluation, analysis and interpretation of all available data and facts over one or more aspects of other nations". (Jeffrey Richelson);
- "a combination of signals and symbols" (Van Peursin);
- "a form of the form" (Șt. Stossel, D.S. Ogodescu).

Beside the definition of information which is confusing and ambiguous there are a lot of characteristics which tries to present the sense of information, such as:

1. the objective property which contributes to the orientation of action; [4]
2. the key of the fourth wave in Toffler opinion; [5]
3. it fits in the fundamental needs of the human being beside air, water, food, clothes, shelter, etc; [6]
4. fixes the problems of adjustment and auto adjustment; [7]
5. the measure of inequitable distribution of material and energy in time and space;
6. a sequence of physic events designated to influence the senses of humans and which signify situations that are not immediate perceptible.

4. The classification of information

The classification of information is realized after a few criteria which emphasize the quantitative essence, the quality side, the connected aspects of action and existence, the destination, the characteristics of the systems, and its transmission.

From the existence criteria point of view, according to D. S. Odogescu's theory there are three categories of information:

- the ontological information is the primary form of the information issued by a source, without a precise recipient, having as generating source the environment (natural, physical, biological, etc.);

- the circulated information is the particular form of information, decomposed in any type of signals and which goes through a natural or artificial transmission channel between source (transmitter) and beneficiary (receiver);
- the gnoseological information is the superior form of information, the result of the its semantic analyze made by man, and reliant to the capacity of man to benefit from it.

Function of the level of profound study and semantics the gnoseological information could be: *surface* (as a result of a receipt of a message without making cognitive actions over it) and *profound* (the ones issued by a message after a logical cognitive processing)

Function of the information destination there are two categories:

- the cybernetic information- dedicated to the management of any kind of system;
- the non-cybernetic information – is referring to the inorganic world and which could exist without management.

I we refer to the characteristics of information in different kind of systems there are the following two categories:

- the technical information - allows the technical systems to function and leads to the organization and coordination, having in principal a probabilistically expression at background;
- the social information- dedicated to the processes from different domains, such as socio-economic one, and which rules the development of human society and individual. In this category there are communicative information (refers to news), command information (makes an action), organizational information (makes a specific arrangement) and recurrent information (ensures the efficiency of the action and helps in the self-regulation against the hazard).[8]

Function of the relation between source and, the transmission channel and the receiver it can be identified the following categories of information:

- distributed information – does not have precise receivers and does not use the communication channels and do not request the communication channels (eg. TV and radio shows);
- the oriented information - has known or unknown receivers, who can assimilate the information but needs specific communication channels (books, forums on Internet, amateur radios);
- the group information - the number of receivers is known by the source, the communication channels are mutually established and the information can be assimilated;
- the direct information- has a single receiver, can be assimilated, the source and the receiver are known, and the communication channel have the parameters requested by both sides. [9]

5. The information in the globalization era

The human society has known many revolutions, such as:

1. *the agrarian revolution*. In the world history has being many agrarian revolutions: the origins of the agriculture (perhaps 10 000 years ago); the agricultural revolution (the 18th century); the green revolution (1945) which is characterized by the large scale use of cultures and fertilizers;
2. the industrial revolution has determined changes in the social, economic and technologic domains between the 17th and 19th centuries. It started with the use of steam engines (using charcoal) and the power of automatic installations (used in the textile industry). The economic progress of this revolution has expanded rapidly with the construction of the steam powered boats, ships and locomotives;
3. the informational era comprise the period in which the transmission of information becomes faster than physical movement (the end of the 20th century-after 70 and the beginning of the 21st century). The promoter of this era is the information technology and represents the technology used to process, by using computers and software for conversion, storage, use, transmission and identification of information anywhere and anytime.

The development of Internet was connected by the technological progress combined with social circumstances. Once implemented in the contemporary society, the Internet has produced and is producing the new consequences for the society, and the most important one is the globalization process.[10]

The Globalization is a contemporary reality which we cannot ignore. It is based on a scientific background, mostly from informatics area, on the transport means and on freedom of movement of the capital and workforce, and also on the easy access to the sources of material and open markets.

We underline once again that the informatics is the engine of the globalization process. The globalization consequences over all human activities were and are extremely significant but we must say that they have an ambivalent character.

As well as the science, which has been the vector that guided us to globalization and mondialisation, it can be considered a "gift from the gods" but also the "devil's tool", if we take into consideration that it unites and divides, brings closer or moves away, homogenizes and diversifies in the same time, enriches and impoverishes, improves the "artificial" comfort of life but decreases the natural from humans. The way to ecstasy is crossing with the one of agony, just like the axes of a complex space in which the reality and fantasy are intersecting but never touching each other, always being on different levels.[11]

Conclusions

Working into a university environment where the information has a formative role we must consider the following aspects:

- The priority must be processing the information, filtered primarily by the specific departments, filter that includes the analysis of the information value and exclusion of the less important or irrelevant elements or those that are obsolete.
 - Setting the priorities in order not to get marginal materials that can burden the institution budget, which is small anyway.
 - The storage of information which suppose keeping the information in any ordinate format for facilitating the identification and localization in short time.
 - Setting up data bases that can be easily accessed by the beneficiaries, and I am focusing here on the existing software at the library level but not only.
- IS interesting how starting from a very complex and generalized issue, we can extract and outline the priorities which devolve upon the library domain.

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