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Information Explosion and the 21st Century Youth: Prospects and Challenges

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Information Explosion and the 21st Century

Prospects and Challenges



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13. Information explosion and Mob lynching
Lalita 5
14. Digital Art in Indian Contemporary Art World
Shalini Tiwari 6
15. Social Media Women's Empowerment and Security Challenges
Sarita Rani 6
16. THEME Psychological impact of information explosion
Anjali Singh 7
17. Information Technology and Emerging Ethical Issues
Nisha Yadav 7
18. Information Explosion in Education
Richa 7
19. A Study of Digital Exposure of under 10 Children Age
Children and Parental views about it at Manipal, South India
Santwana 8
20. Role of Social Media in Big and Small Business
Jitender Kumar 9
21. Information technology for Agricultural Development in India
Bhavna Yadav 9
22. Information Explosion An Asset for Computer Assisted English Language Learning (Caell)
Shweta Singh 9
23. Impact of Globalization and Information Explosion on Eatingout Practices of Young Adults
Shabnam Chhabra Neha Maheshwari 10
24. Role of ICT in The Development of Indian Classical Music
Bhagat Singh 10
25. Information Overload Challenges and Management
Mani Arora 10
26. Analytical Review on Information Spread to Protect
Environment through Automatic Segro-Degrader
Amit Chaudhary Nidhi Chaudhary 11
27. Social Media : Boon or Bane for Indian Youth
Vineeta Singh 12
28. Role of ICT in Developing and Exploring Madhubani Painting All over The World
Meenu Aggarwal Shalu Kansal 12
29. Impact of Information Overload on Knowledge
Formation through Digital Media
Ramakanti 13
30. Role of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) 21st Centuries Higher Education
Anil Kumar 13
31. Spreading Environmental Awareness using Technology
Meenakshi Lohani 14
32. Role of Ict in Sports
Kismat Chhillar Rashmi Kumari 14

Information Explosion in Education

ABSTRACT

Today is an era of information explosion. Many administration, instructor, librarians, research scholar, school and college teacher, student etc are searching and using information every day. Information Explosion is a term used to describe the rapidly increasing amount of Published Information and the effect of this abundance of data. In this paper I will discuss about causes and effect of information explosion and how it is implementing in our education day by day. As people are faced with growing levels of information overload, the inability to make clear and accurate decisions has increased their stress level. The problem of information overload can be traced to interruptions in the work place. Information Explosion has particularly affected the mind of the younger generation. The present modern world is passing through a period of information, magazine, journals and new science. The conclusion of this paper is that information explosion is indeed a 21 century reality. But with the development in research in coming decades the problem of information will increase. Therefore it is required an effort from library and information, Professional computers scientist, academician and knowledge management specialist so that the adverse effect of information overload could be kept to a minimum and the information seekers are provided with effective and innovative way for tackling the problem.

INTRODUCTION

Information Explosion is a term used to describe the rapidly increasing amount of Published Information and the effect of this abundance of data. As the amount of data grows, managing the information become more difficult which can lead to information overload.¹

Information in this context may be examined by two ways -

1. Flowing Information
2. Stored Information

Flowing information is that which is transmitted over the airwaves like on internet and via telephone. Stored information is that which is printed on paper. Information Explosion means the overloading of information.

According to Dictionary.com, Information overload is an over-whelming feeling upon the receipt or collection of an indigestible or incomprehensible amount of information, the feeling of being faced with an amount of data that one has no hope of completely processing.

The world possessed 988 Exabyte (EB) of data in 2010 (1EB equal to billion giga bytes or 50,000 year long DVD). By implication, in 2010, every new born had 800 Megabyte (MB) of information to its credit. This if printed, would mean a burden of 30 feet of books per child.²

This is nothing but information explosion which is intensifying like a raging inferno.³

OBJECTIVE

In this paper I will discuss about causes and effect of information explosion and how it is implementing in our education day by day.

INFORMATION EXPLOSION : CAUSES AND EFFECT

There are many causes of information explosion -

- » A rapid increase in the production rate of new information

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The ease of duplication and transmission of data across the internet

The advancement of IT especially search engine technology has resulted in over abundance of information with the advent of new publishing media specially the online over there is too much information generating from a multiple sources which is one of main causes of information overloaded. This puts increasing pressure who have very limited time to find locate retrieve and uses information from all these various sources.

The problem is exacerbated by irrelevant and unimportant information constantly piling up in mass media, especially electronic media like TV, Website, Blogs, Social networking sites, Email etc.

Technology undoubtedly brings about multidimensional change in society and impact the mind and the cultural behavior also. Under the impact of changing technologies, every generation experiences a distance or feels cut off from the medieval society whose stability was based on religious faith with the introduction of mechanical dynamics for steam driven railway and ships and the telegraph. Next generation society living in early twentieth century felt cut off from the mechanical dynamics based society with the onsets of cars running on internal combustion engine, the boon and bane of the car fission and psychology in sight of Dr. Freud.

The development of technology are impacting directly or indirectly to all the member of society cutting across the geographical frontiers.⁵

As people are faced with growing levels of information overload, the inability to make clear and accurate decision can increased their stress level. The problem of information overload can be related to interruptions in the work place. Interruptions include in coming Email, messages, phone calls and instant messaging all of which break mental focus and redirect it to the source of interruption. The person has to deal with the interruption, the redirect their attention back to the original task.

INFORMATION EXPLOSION IN EDUCATION

Today is an era of information explosion. Many administration, instructor, librarians, researcher, school and college teacher, student etc are searching and using information every day. Information is not easy to understand precisely internet and World Wide Web (www). Information is now delivered and disseminated across many applications, database, network, platform and system in the network information world.

Earlier information source are only published media and hand-written manuscript but now a days the source of information are diversified from database, online journals, optical disc, DVD, CDROM and other media. When, the school curricula are seen internationally in the face of the fact that 94 percent of world's information is being available in digital format. But there are many problems in understanding of digital literacy for students because teacher education programmes also do not equip teachers to impart instruction to their student in digital literacy. The school curriculum designed has failed to grapple with this new digital literacy. The students are not being imparted basic skill in computers in primary and secondary level.

To increase digital literacy Government of India has an objective of one digitally literate person per family. It is proposed to 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats through a fiber optic network, which would increase broad band connectivity. For this purpose Government of India implement some programme like Pilot project, Bharat Broad Band Network Limited(BBNL), BSNL. It has been proposed that digital literacy week may be observed in India to spread awareness about broad band and digital literacy. State of U.P has initiated programme to distribute laptop to all student, who after passing intermediate to join higher studies in India.⁷

Use of ICT can help University libraries cope with the challenge of Information Explosion. For instance the reference librarian can attend to the queries of numerous users through the electronic work. The availability and accessibility of electronic information resource is made possible through

ICT, such resources are online journal, Ebook, C-ROM are now accessible to library.

Media is also help to educate the people in society. The electronic media particularly satellite channels, have completely changed the media scenario and now all information is reaching to the people in quick time.

Information Explosion has particularly affected the mind of the younger generation; the present modern world is passing through a period of information, magazine, journals and newsletters.

Due to Information Explosion, new technologies are being integrated into the learning environment. Networks, internet and print method are used as effective tools for improving learning opportunities for student and teacher. There are many factors which directly contribute to information explosion. Some of them are -

- » Increased literacy, no. of scholar, literature explosion. Some of -
- » Increased literacy, no. of scholar, literature
 - » Increased research & development
 - » Growth of Technology
 - » Today is an era of information explosion

CONCLUSION

Technology has made the ease of access to information possible by Email, text messaging, social network. Emails are used every day by teachers and students to use in the sharing of information. Nowadays internet is the common platform for educational material. Whatsapp is also a one of the popular application used in different organization whether it is a school, college or even in universities in this student and teacher can share educational and administrative information.

So I conclude that Information Explosion is indeed a 21st century reality. But seeing the development in research in coming decades the problem of information will increase. Therefore it required an effort from library and information, Professional computers scientist, academician and knowledge management specialist so that the adverse effect of information overload could be kept at a minimum and the information seekers are provided with effective and innovative way for tackling the problem.

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