

Pascal Frion (University of Poitiers, France)

From information acceptance to information refusal: unity in belief, diversity in actions in information science

There seems to be unity in Information Science to consider information as a major raw material for the information age. Information illustrates the progress paradigm. Our management, information management, competitive intelligence, are particularly based on this philosophical belief. Our actions mainly follow the information acceptance approach and the information tolerance approach.

However in some occasions, information does not seem to be such a “good thing” (i.e. information addiction, information distraction, information overload) and our actions might as well follow the information avoidance and the information refusal approaches.

Another unity in Information Science seems to consider information as existing. Therefore, most efforts and competences will be on treating the existing information available, rather than really seeking it. And when information is created it is usually done through a refinery process, sometimes offering new perspectives. Unfortunately, treating information in large quantities is time consuming and may distract from strategy formulation, creativity and critical thinking. Information targeting and information filtering the existing information is following the progress paradigm and has not proved its effectiveness in all situations yet.

Is it time to release the progress paradigm and the existing information supremacy and consider sustainable alternatives such as a methodological information refusal and information invention?