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# THE EFFECT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON LEARNING STYLES, ESPECIALLY ON STUDENTS (POSSIBILITY FOR WEB SEARCHES)

During his life man has always created those relations and means of communication, which he needed at his state of development. These means and the communication system of the society have developed in permanent interaction with everyday life, social relations and with different social organisations. Social development required development in communication as well, so the technological development of the different means of communication made social progress faster.

In the history of communication we can speak about four main revolutionary transformations:

- Revolution of ***speaking***: which we, as a matter of fact, can call the revolution of the process of becoming a human being
- Revolution of ***writing***, the culmination of which was the appearance of phonetic spelling
- Revolution of ***typography***, which, from a certain point of view was the forerunner of the civil revolution
- Revolution of ***electronic media*** – telegraphic apparatus, telephone, radio, television –, which nowadays intertwines with the revolution of data processing by electronic computers.

In the twentieth century the role of information rose and changed a lot, and as a consequence of this there was a great step in the exchange of information, in the communication technics. As a response to this the information theory from Shannon came into being.

## Information-based society: the revolution of information

People became aware of the importance of information only in the twentieth century. Economics, politics, culture, science, public health, education, every social activity and organisation have become extremely complicated. Their proper functioning needed more and more information. By the middle of the last century data processing couldn't be overcome by traditional means and methods. Science did its best this time too: it created the electronic computer. The technology of data processing, -storing, -forwarding (based on increase in microelectronics) has undergone a very fast and great development, it has made its appearance in each human activity, and it has become the driving force of radical changes. This process is called the revolution of information.

The revolution of information happened three to six times faster than industrial revolution.

## Information-based society: information management

The concept of information-based society was introduced by American sociologists at the beginning of the 1970s.

The roots of this information-based society can first be found in the most developed countries of the world, like the United States, Japan. Step by step it has spread all over the world to such an extent that the employees who work in this sphere exceed in number those who work in industry and in service sector.

## Learning, knowledge, the Hungarian educational system

The Hungarian educational system has undergone very important changes in the last fifteen years. It has become more colourful, more diversified, and because of this more interesting, too. The changes of the system are due to different principles and rules. It is out of question that behind all these changes there is the developed information system. As a consequence of this a certain syllabus made its appearance, in which the most essential part is teaching informatics and information systems.

## The theses of education and information-based society

The thesis of education and the information society were formulated in 5 points by László Z. Karvalics, of which the first two:

First thesis:

"The value of education is overestimated in the information-based society..."

Second thesis:

"The less place education occupies on the map of knowledge, the faster the other elements of the instructional complex of knowledge manifestations are…."

In the other three thesis he says, that the possibilities of the information society are beyond the national curriculum. In this respect the consensus between teacher and student is to disintegrate, and this process needs more than 40 or 50 years to prevail the area.

The electronic studying milieu has 3 models:

1. the model of the emphasis-transfer: where the model of the acquired knowledge and the model of learning of the industrial society faces the models of the information society.
2. mezoworld: the concept of mezoworld interferes with the concept of micro- and hiperworld, which means the milieu of the school opened in several directions.
3. communication-based model: in which the three basic, determinative medium are: speaking, writing-reading and the electronic computer.

## Librarianship and information search

To establish the basic skills and abilities necessary in information-based society such a milieu is needed which can help the teaching-learning process and the acquiring of knowledge by using open sets of information. Milieu which makes it possible for both students and professors to find supplementary sources as well beside the existing and used coursebooks. Milieu which can also make possible the acquisition of the effective usage of new technologies.

## The definition of the information searching language

The language which is appropriate for describing questions in the field of information search, namely the transcription of the definitions made in natural language into a unified language is called information searching language.

The types of information searching languages:

1. Hierarchical information searching languages: they form the words of the language on the basis of subordination, taking into consideration the mental and semantic coherence.
2. Coordinated information searching languages: the contents of the documents we look for must be expressed by using the coordinated words of the natural language. In practice they are called object-oriented systems.
3. Semantic (connected) information searching languages: these languages tried very hard to express more fully the mental connections of the concepts – tesaurus.

What concerns the point of view of a librarian: it is slightly known that those two basic forms which are already traditional in librarianship have appeared on the net, too: the language which uses individual words and the classifying system organized on hierarchic structures.

The above mentioned are mostly such information search languages which are based on index-words looked for by automatic means (free words). The users of these types of service (Hot Bot, Infosec, Heureka stb.) usually choose the textwords without using any certain dictionary. Among them we can rarely find such kind of people who use certain, standard dictionaries (Altavizsla, Kolibri). The relevance of the informationthesis of the last mentioned services are much more relevant.

The other services are hierarchic classifying system (which are used in informationsearch services like Yahoo, Hudir). The complex of the classifying system and the mostly intelectually revealed informationthesis is called information catalogue. In it the thesis are organized in hierarchically structured classes.

## Classifying systems on the internet

Different searching services like AltaVista, HotBot, InfoSeek, Magellan, Excite, Yahoo! Hunagarian AltaVizsla, Heuréka, Hudir, appeared very fast after the World Wide Web and other available sites came into being.

The main characteristics of these above mentioned systems are:

- they are based only on natural language
- They can be used in a very flexible way

Extremely diversified information can be searched for by the means of these systems (like documentary, timetables, telephone numbers, statistic data, personal information)

What concerns the collective field services can be:

- Global, which theoretically includes all sites on the net (Altavista, Yahoo)
- National, regional or language defined groups/sites (AltaVizsla, HUDIR)
  - Universal: includes any kind of HTML documents
- Special: subject based information gateways (WWW Women, Music-Search)

Some of the services are fast, the others are rich in searching devices, and there are some which are good at storing different data.

The most popular English site services are:

Excite (http://www.excite.com)
Yahoo! (http://www.yahoo.com)
Microsoft Internet Start (http://www.msn.com)
Lycos (http://www.lycos.com)
AltaVista (http://www.altavista.com)
HotBot (http://www.hotbot.com)
Infoseek(http://infoseek.go.com)
Looksmart (http://www.looksmart.com)
Netscape Netcenter (http://home.netscape.com)
The Hungarian ones are:
Heuréka (http://www.heureka.hu)
Vizsla (http://www.origo.hu)
Google (http://www.google.co.hu)

## The learning habits of students

Students are getting more and more accustomed to using the computer and the net offers them a very varied range of information. To keep step with all these the institutions like universities are gradually trying to establish facilities on their own. Almost all of them have their own website, which in most cases function very well, are user-friendly and able to have them updated.

The existing searching tehcnics have been examined among the students of the Tehcnological Faculty at the University of Debrecen. Their gained experience corresponds to that study which is published on CyberAtlas website.

Almost ¾ of the internet-users use some searching software.

In case of information searching 52% use the same searching and thematic software, and only 35% of them use alternative ways. The remaining 13% use diferrent searching software for differerent types of searching.

16% of those who work with a searching software take a look at only the first two results, 32% of them examine the whole of the first page, 23% reach the second

page, while the remainder 10,3% go through all the results, if it doesn't mean dozens of pages.

If failure occurs during the first search, only 7,5% specifies, refines the searching question, 27,2% make an attempt by using another searching software.