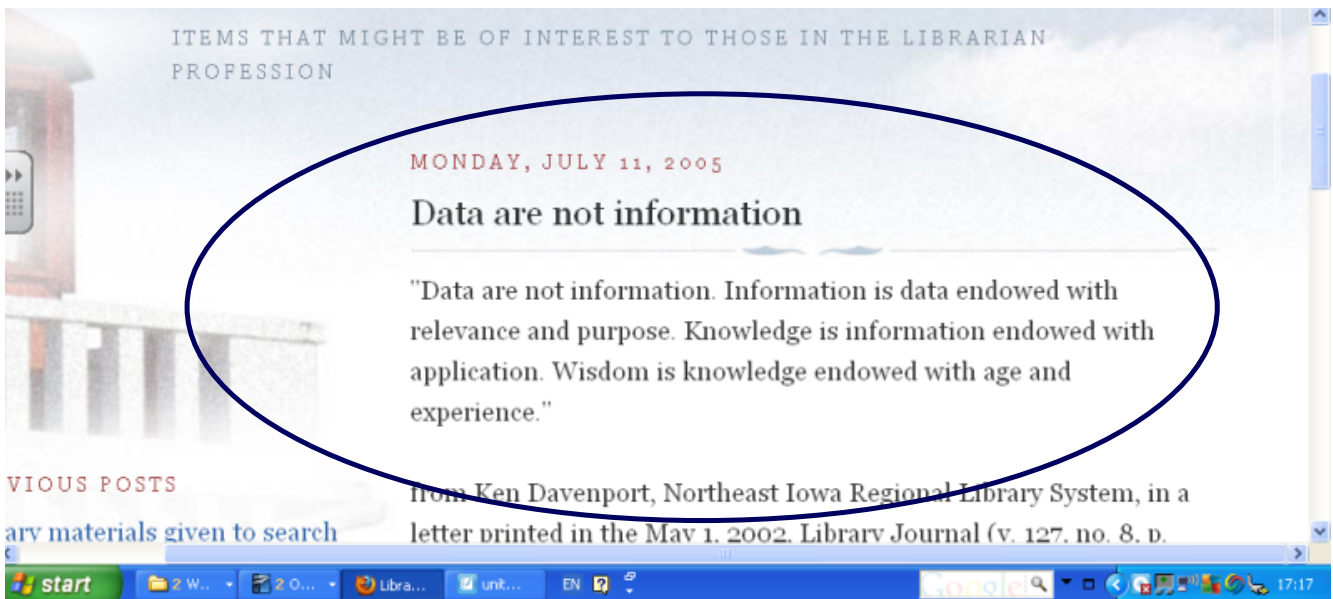


Sources of Information

WYNTL 3.3



Data: Raw numbers

Information: Data in context - with meaning

Knowledge: Use of information.

SIMS : raw data from primary sch.
Mrs Guy types it in - in a context
Teacher uses info. to predict grades
(wisdom use of info thro' experience)

Sources of information

- You should only arrive at a decision when you are in possession of all the facts. Without this information, the accuracy and validity of any decisions may be distorted. You need to consider the following points:
 - What do I need to know?
 - What relevant knowledge do I already have?
 - What are the gaps in my knowledge and can they be filled?
 - What information do I already have access to?
 - Where will any additional information come from?
 - How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

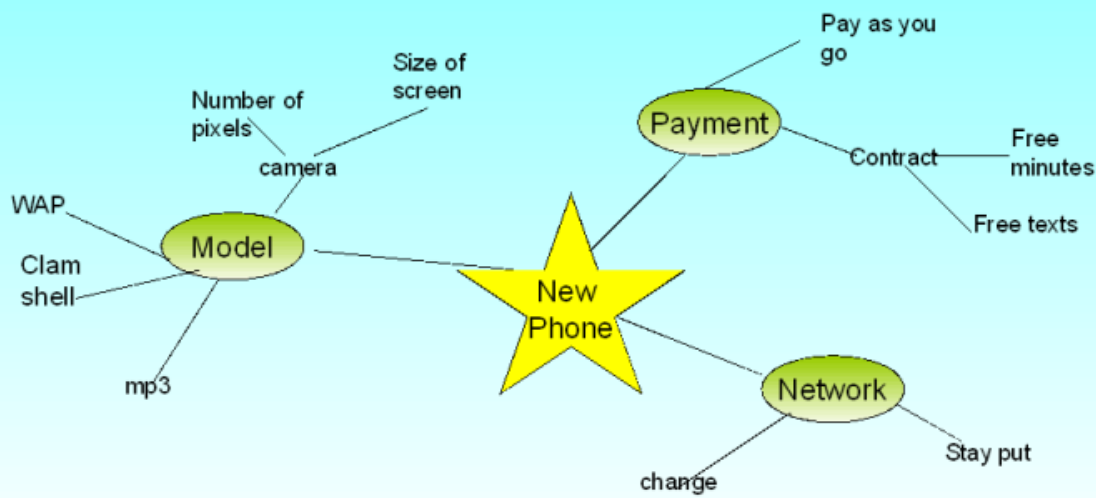
Different kinds of data:

What do I need to know

- To find the answer to this question, try asking more questions...
- There are techniques you can use to do this!
- Brainstorming- this is done in small groups and all relevant ideas are contributed. This allows ideas to flow and for people to build on others ideas.

What do I need to know

- Spider diagrams.
- These can be used to write down all the things you need to know.
- These can then be converted to questions of things you need to address.



Sources of information:

Brainstorming (pooling ideas)
Spider diagrams (thinking around the issues)

page 244 onwards

The Internet
Experts (other people)
Newspapers/magazines
Books

Task

- You are thinking of doing ICT at University. There are 100's of courses.... You need to whittle them down to 6
- Draw a spider diagram to help you think about what will help you make the decisions.
- Consider what you would need to know about each course and university to make the decision.
- From the diagram compile a list of questions that you need to ask....
- 10 mins
- Are they different to other peoples?

What relevant knowledge do I already have?

- Sometimes we do not recognise the relevance of what we know.
- Look at your list of questions and think carefully: Do I know any of this?
- It may be that you know someone who knows something about it or you recall reading something on it- this may be a useful starting point.

What are the gaps in my knowledge and can they be filled?

- You should immediately start to see where the gaps are! They will probably fall in to one of the following categories:
 - You have some information but you are not quite sure of it so you need to check.
 - You do not have the information but you know where to find it or who to ask.
 - You have no information at all as yet.

What information do I already have access to?

- Information can be gained from a variety of sources:
 - Books
 - Documents
 - Pictures
 - Maps
 - TV and video
 - Databases
 - Websites
 - Other people
- Look at the list of questions think of the sources of information you can easily find... do you have a book on a specific subject

What information do I already have access to?

- You need to distinguish between 2 types of sources of information:
- Primary and Secondary Sources.
 - Primary sources are the original documents or first hand reports.
 - Secondary Sources are summaries and accounts that have been put together from primary sources e.g. a recorded news report or a history book.
- If you use a secondary source you have to check its accuracy as the secondary source is an interpretation of original primary sources.

Task

- Go back to your list of questions.
 - What knowledge do you already have?
 - What gaps are in your knowledge?
 - What information can you get hold of easily and from where.
 - Are they primary or secondary sources?

Where will any additional information come from?

- You now need to consider how to fill the gaps in the information. There are 3 main collections of knowledge you can use:
- Libraries
- Experts
- The internet
- If you select the internet you need to ensure you search effectively.
- Any information should be referenced

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

- You should ask yourself whether the information you have found is correct. People can deliberately mislead you or accidentally so you need to be able judge the source of the information as well as the content:

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

- **Is the information appropriate?**

- It is easy to be captivated by interesting but irrelevant facts.
- You should check whether the information answers one or more of your questions.
- Does it deal with the problem in enough depth.

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

• **Is the information valid?**

- Is it a primary or secondary source?
- Secondary sources may not have interpreted the information correctly.
- Some information is deliberately weighted so you take one side of an argument.
- Even primary sources may be inaccurate as several witnesses can give a different account of an event.
- Gathering a lot of evidence will allow you to cross check your information.

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

- **Is the Information current?**
- You can check whether the information is up to date by finding if the publication has a date.

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

Is the source authentic?

- When you buy a national newspaper you can be pretty sure its authentic... but many documents in history have been forged.
- Websites can also give false information. Check:
 - The address – does it end with .ac.uk or edu then it comes from a reputable academic institution.
 - The contacts page – is it a real address
 - Do other sites link to it?

How will I evaluate sources of information to ensure they are reliable?

Is the source authentic?

- Book or magazines can be checked:
 - Name and address of publisher
 - ISBN number
- An author can be checked:
- Their name should appear somewhere- Google it.
- In some cases an expert may be able to authenticate sources.
- Trusted sources- the BBC will name its reporters

Find out about mortgages

Making predictions

Open an excel spreadsheet.

You buy a house for £200 000 and take a mortgage for £100 000.

You pay an interest rate of 2.5%.

Set up a spreadsheet to calculate annual payments for a 20 year mortgage (this is simplified as payments are usually made monthly but 240 cells seem a little odd!)

Interest rates are unstable. Change it for some of the first 10 years.

Using this info, set up a trend function in excel (p253) to predict future fluctuations and payments

Homework

- Complete Database write up for next Thursday.
- Make sure you include some comments about trends – you can use excel to help.
- Bring in a printed copy and the original (on a memory stick)