Summaries

Qualified by some authors as a misnomer or a modern-day myth, information overload is major problem that affects the business world, academia and the professions. Among the causes of information overload we find too much information. The extreme diversity of information can also lead to overload. Diversity may occur in the formats used, as well. We can distinguish between the macro level and the micro level of information overload. The first one is related to the limits of physical storage and (mainly) human processing capacities in managing information properly. The micro level is of qualitative nature and it is essentially a failure to filter information. The prevalence of Web 2.0 technologies also contributes to information overload as it cultivates an information environment, which is uncontrolled, where producing information is easy and there is an expectation of constant novelty. Proper information literacy education can help in alleviating the symptoms of information overload.

The article reports on the changes that took place over the past couple of years in the field of personal information management (PIM). The first part deals with current issues in this area, with changes in services and their ceasing, while the second part presents the most important trends, the comprehensive and lasting changes affecting personal information management. The related transformations culminate in the rapid spread of cloud services, as well as in the explosion of smart mobile devices serving a variety of aims and appearing in various sizes.

The Central Library of the University of Public Service organizes a conference each year on the Day of Hungarian Science. In 2013 they chose the theme "The librarian as a personal interface of knowledge transfer". Personal presence and the role of intermediaries is inevitable in library activities even with the dizzying prospects of ICT developments. The content, tools and requirements of the classical knowledge transfer function of libraries need rethinking and re-formulation in the Web era.. The article presents, based on the LIS Euroguide as an essential European tool, the competences and aptitudes which guarantee the adequate quality of librarians' activities. The author demonstrates, against the background of the development of the Hungarian library system over the last half-century, how librarians' competences expanded as a consequence of the changes in functions. The stakeholders must be made aware that the role of libraries has substantially increased in the transfer of and support to knowledge, with a view to lifelong learning and development, thus it has become a must to measure the suitability, competitiveness and performance of librarians.