



DEFINITIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF INFORMATION SCIENCE

provided by members of the ASIS&T European Chapter

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BACKGROUND

- 115 members
- more than 20 different countries
- affiliated with universities, research institutions, other information service providers, and other institutions and enterprise
- entire range of levels of professionalism, from PhD students to more senior researchers

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BACKGROUND

- Sent poll to all members
- Information Science is...
 - What you teach
- Information Science for me is...
 - What you believe and do 😊
- 1 month (August-September 2016)



RESULTS

- 12 answers
- 4: Germany
- 3 UK
- 2: France
- 1: Croatia, Sweden, Austria



RESULTS

- Information Science is...

access agenda application archives aspects behaviour computer deals design
development disseminating form formats gets governance head including
information knowledge
management media organisation person perspective practices
processes purpose records relating relationship relevant
retrieval **science** search services social stock **storage**
study systems theories usage

- >2 occurrences, merged word forms, lower case



RESULTS

- Information Science for me is...



- >2 occurrences, merged word forms, lower case



RESULTS FOR GERMANY

- Information Science is...

application aspects basic beginning behaviour cases computer conditions
data dealing difference digital diverse documents due etc handbook includes
information knowledge main
mainly maybe measuring mix perspective practical
predominantly processes related relevant representation retrieval
science search social stock storage
studies supply system-oriented **systems** teaching theories transfer underlying
usage user-driven wild work

- all occurrences, merged word forms, lower case



RESULTS FOR UK

- Information Science is...



- all occurrences, merged word forms, lower case



RESULTS FOR AUSTRIA, CROATIA, SWEDEN, FRANCE

- Information Science is...



- all occurrences, merged word forms, lower case



SELECTED STATEMENTS

- **Isto Huvila, Sweden**

„ Information Science for me is...

...an opportunity to learn more about how people get to know what they need to know in order to do what they want to do, and hopefully, to be able to help them in that pursuit.”

- “You are not asking especially easy questions. The third one could have probably been what is the meaning of life ;-)”



SELECTED STATEMENTS

- **Michel Menou, France**

„ Information Science for me is...

...what is the difference between question 1 and 2?”

... the provocative answer: there is no information science because information is the raw material for all sciences.”

...or as Ranganathan stated: information science is librarianship with higher salaries.”



SELECTED STATEMENTS

- **Emil Levine, Austria**
- The best definition I ever heard of information science came from Dr. Isaac Welt, American University, Washington, DC, Information Science 101. About 1968.
- First day of class he stated:
- "Everyone would get a B grade but only those who joined ASIS would get an A."



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- Michel Menou, France
- Wolfgang G. Stock, Germany
- Christine Urquhart, UK
- Christa Womser-Hacker, Germany
- Male colleague, Croatia

