

Alex Frato

CMPT 308

Dr. Rivas

## Information vs Data

One of the oldest databases in use today is Oracle. In 1979 Oracle became the first commercially available RDBMS or relational database management system. It may seem to the average user that databases take in information from a user and store it until it is to be accessed again, but this is only half of what is happening. A computer turns information into what we like to call data. Many like to use the terms information and data interchangeably although, these two words have very different meanings. Data and information can both represent the same object but, data is actually how a machine reads information the user inputs into the system.

Think of data as the 1's and 0's that make up machine code and information is the context behind the 1's and 0's that the user needs stored in the database for example: John Smith. Just having the data will lead us nowhere if we don't know the table this data is a part of. Once the data is organized and processed it should return to its original form when the user needs to access this content. Relational databases like Oracle help us store and organize data in the form of related tables. This becomes helpful to the user because it doesn't require much assuming of how items may be related and retrieved if necessary.