Database Design
1-2: Data vs. Information
Practice Activities

Objectives

- Distinguish between data and information, and provide examples of each
- Describe and give an example of how data becomes information

Vocabulary

Identify the vocabulary word for each definition below.

	A collection of data arranged for ease and speed of search and retrieval.
	Raw material, from which you can draw conclusions
	Knowledge, intelligence, a particular piece of data with a special meaning or function

Try It / Solve It

1. List specific data that the school collects about each student. What information could be gathered using all the student data?

2. Review an online database such as:
   http://www.archives.gov
   http://www.historyworld.net/
   http://newdeal.feri.org/index.htm
   https://www.loc.gov/
   http://www.imdb.com/

   a. Write examples of data and information related to one of the sites.

   b. State why you believe data collections of this type could be important.

3. Choose a website that displays data that might be stored in a database; find 10 data items on the site and list 5 pieces of information that could be gleaned from the data.

4. Give examples of how data becomes information for these two industries:
   - film/movie
   - hospital/healthcare

5. Using this Lunch Room Data Report, answer the questions that follow.

Date	Student Sales	Faculty/Staff Sales	Hamburger/Taco Bar	Pizza Bar	Soup/Salad Bar
12/02/2003	497	23	335	122	63
12/03/2003	440	19	285	126	48
12/04/2003	447	30	301	126	50
12/05/2003	442	27	325	107	37
12/06/2003	330	12	229	83	30

   a. What does this report mean?

   b. What data was collected?

   c. What information does this table provide from the data collected?

   d. How do you think this information is used by those reading the report?

   e. Generate at least two conclusions based on the data provided.

   f. Generate at least two questions that you would ask about the data provided.