

Challenges and Opportunities for IS, IR & DS in an Era of Information Ubiquity

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In the emerging technological and social-technical environment, people will be (to some extent, already are) constantly and ubiquitously emerged in a sea of information (or, data). This will be:

- Information (data) of a great variety of “kinds”;
- Information (data) from or about increasingly varied and numerous sources;
- Information (data) in increasingly varied and numerous media types;
- Information (data) available in increasingly varied and numerous modalities;
- and,
- Information (data) available for access and interaction in increasingly varied and numerous contexts.

And, increasingly, “pushed” information will compete with, indeed, replace “pulled” information. All of these conditions have major implications for research and practice in each of the fields of Information Science, Information Retrieval, and Data Science, individually, in their interactions with one another, and, perhaps most importantly, in their integration. These implications present both challenges and opportunities with respect to the goal of supporting people’s interactions with information (data). In particular, the ubiquity of information, and of information access, suggests that support for interaction with information will require responding to (at least) the following facets of people:

- The Ubiquitous Person
- The Thinking Person
- The Feeling Person
- The Social Person
- The Goal-Driven Person
- The Non-Goal Person
- The Embodied Person

In this presentation, I propose the concept of “radical personalization” as a means to support effective interaction amongst IS, IR and DS and to address the challenges posed by the era of information ubiquity, and to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by it. I also discuss some ethical issues inherent in supporting people’s interactions with information (data) in the era of information ubiquity in general, and in this specific approach to that goal.

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