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*Commentary***Scope on information behavior****Thanmmaiah Bin***

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Accepted 28 December, 2021

DESCRIPTION

Information behavior is a branch of information science that studies how individuals find and use information in a variety of situations. It encompasses not just information seeking and retrieval, but also the study of why people seek information and how they use it. In 2000, Thomas D. Wilson coined the phrase “information behavior,” which he described as “the whole of human behavior in respect to information sources and channels.”

Information-seeking behavior is a subset of information-seeking behavior. It focuses on locating, looking for, and retrieving information. Information-seeking behavior study might concentrate on enhancing information systems or, if it incorporates information need, on understanding why users behave the way they do. Users’ information search behavior is influenced by behavioral variables, personal factors, product/service characteristics, and situational factors, according to a review research.

A meta-theory is “a set of assumptions that orient and steer reasoning about a specific reality,” according to LIS. Researchers in library and information science have used a variety of meta-theories in their work. The wide range of theories that underlie the study of information behavior, information consumers, or information usage is a recurrent concern among LIS researchers and a topic of discussion in the field. Individual studies are difficult to compare or integrate if they are not guided by the same theory, which has been identified as a cause for worry.

Cognitivist approach

A Psychology underpins a cognitive approach to understanding information behavior. It is based on the idea that how a person thinks affects how they seek, retrieve, and use information. Researchers that study information behavior from the perspective that it is influenced by cognition want to know

what people are thinking while they are doing it and how those thoughts influence their behavior.

Constructionist approach

The humanities and social sciences have influenced the constructionist approach to information behavior. It is based on the concept of social constructionism, which holds that a person’s information behavior is influenced by their social experiences. Constructionist scholars must first comprehend the social discourse that surrounds information behavior before they can understand the behavior itself. The constructionist approach to information behavior study allows for contextualization of conduct based on the individual’s social experiences. A study of the information behavior of a public library knitting group is one example of a study that uses a social constructionist approach to information behavior research. The authors’ research is framed by a collectivist theory, which rejects the universality of information behavior in support of “understanding the ways that discourse communities jointly generate information needs, seeking, sources, and uses.”

Constructivist approach

The Individuals are considered as actively developing an understanding of their environments, significantly impacted by the social world(s) in which they operate, according to the constructivist perspective, which emerged from education and sociology. In general, constructivist methods to information behavior study treat the individual’s world as created within their own mind rather than by the society in which they live. The constructivist meta-theory makes room for the influence of society and culture with social constructivism, “which argues that, while the mind constructs reality in its relationship to the world, influences from societal customs, history, and interactions with significant persons all play a role in this mental process.”

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