

**The value added  
of organized information:  
from Floridi to Bennett**

*Claudio Gnoli*

*(University of Pavia)*

ISKO UK 2015, London, July 13-14, 2015

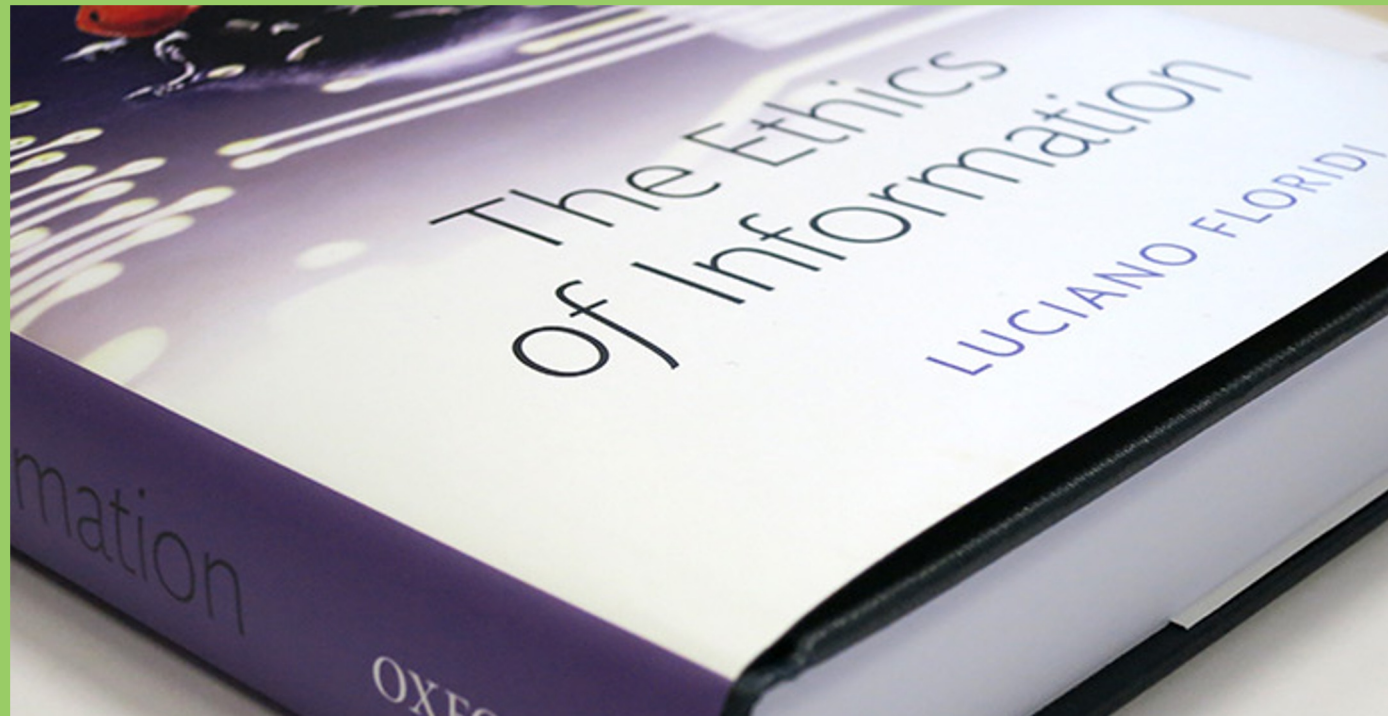
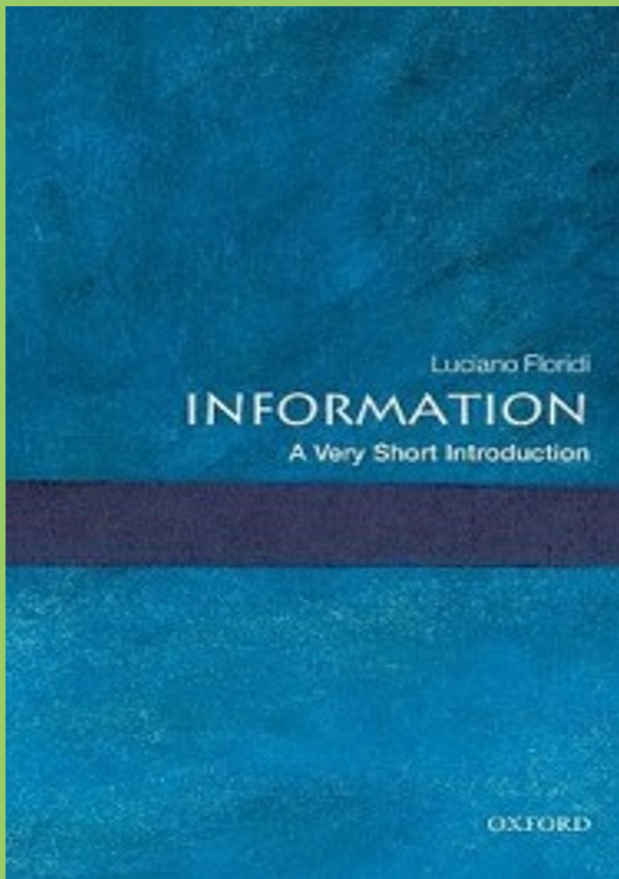
# A skeptical reviewer...

Does information *theory*  
**make any difference**  
(to a conference  
focused on impact of KO)

?

I hope so :-)

# Information as a value



# “It from bit”

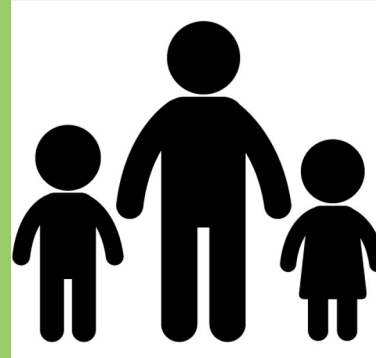
Anything  
is information...

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[Wiener 1961;  
Landauer 1967;  
Wheeler 1990;  
Davies 2010]

# Ethics

- anthropo-centric  
(traditional beliefs)



- bio-centric  
(environmental concerns)



- onto- (info-)centric  
[Spinoza, Floridi]



# If so...

...**information science** (and KO)  
would be a central discipline  
rather than an ancillary one !

[Bawden & Robinson



# Information = good ?

- “being/information has an intrinsic value”
- “any informational entity has the right to persist in its own status and to flourish”

[Floridi 2010]

Hence, entropy = evil ?

“any kind of destruction, corruption, dispersion and consumption of informational objects [...] that is any form of impoverishment of reality”

[Floridi 2010]



# But then...

has

everything

the same

value ?!

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“The different kinds of information “cannot be seriously quantified”

[Floridi 2013]

# Informational phenomena

- matter
- life
- mind
- society
- heritage

organization



[Fleissner & Hofkirchner 1996;  
Capurro 2009; Gnoli & Ridi 2014]

# Informational systems

made of modules  
which combine variously  
selected by environment  
evolving

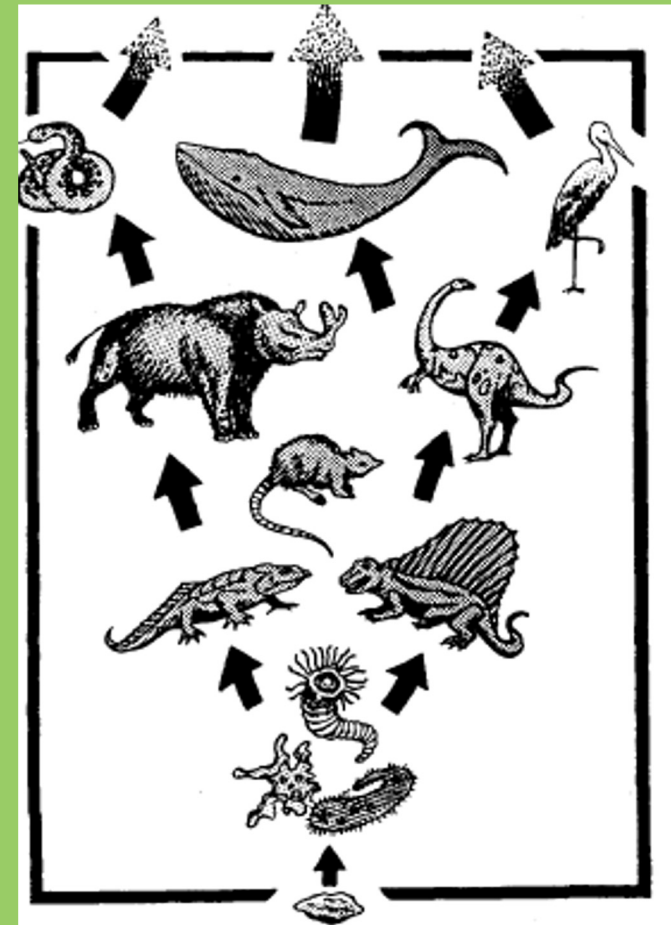
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[Haefner 1992;  
Bickhard & Campbell 2003]

# Logical depth

Organization resulting from  
long evolutionary computational paths

[Charles H. Bennett  
1985; 1988; 1990]



# Logical depth

“Deeper” phenomena  
are more valuable  
because of  
their previous path

Destroying them  
means losing  
the whole path



The screenshot shows the top portion of a Guardian news article. At the top right is the Guardian logo with the text "Winner of the Pulitzer prize 2014". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for "home", "world", "middle east", "cities", "development", "europe", "US", "americas", "asia", and "all". The article title is "How the ancient city of Palmyra looked before the fighting - in pictures", preceded by a camera icon. Below the title is a sub-headline: "Islamic State fighters now appear to have taken control of the historic Syrian city of Palmyra - threatening the destruction of this world heritage site's priceless architecture and art". The main image is a photograph of the ruins of Palmyra, featuring a large stone archway and several columns in the distance under a clear sky. A small circular icon with a left arrow and a right arrow is visible in the top right corner of the image.

theguardian  
Winner of the Pulitzer prize 2014

home › world › middle east cities development europe US americas asia all

Cities

📷 How the ancient city of Palmyra looked before the fighting - in pictures

Islamic State fighters now appear to have taken control of the historic Syrian city of Palmyra - threatening the destruction of this world heritage site's priceless architecture and art



# Floridi + Bennett

Molecules are indeed valuable...

but monuments are much more.



Information is  
as more valuable  
as it is **organized**

# Logical depth

“Destroy the physical properties  
in any object  
and the entire object goes,  
but the reverse is not true”

[Feibleman 1954]

Deeper objects are more vulnerable

# Valuable personal knowledge

Every person has experienced  
unique events and environments

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→ is bearer of  
logically deep  
knowledge





## ARCHIVIO

- ▶ l'archivio dei diari
- ▶ iniziative e progetti
- ▶ collaborazioni

## COME

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 Dal 1984 Pieve Santo Stefano, quasi al confine tra Toscana, Umbria e Romagna, ha innalzato ai quattro punti cardinali del suo perimetro, sulle strade che vi accedono, un cartello giallo sotto quello della toponomastica ufficiale: "**Città del diario**". La cittadina ospita infatti nella sede del municipio, un **archivio pubblico**, che raccoglie scritti di gente comune in cui si riflette, in varie forme, la vita di tutti e la storia d'Italia: sono diari, epistolari, memorie autobiografiche.

Quarant'anni dopo la fine della guerra, in un'ala di questo edificio, è


consulta  
IL CATALOGO  
DEI DIARI

partecipa  
AL PREMIO  
SAVERIO TUTTI

affida  
IL TUO DIARIO  
ALL'ARCHIVIO

sostieni  
L'ARCHIVIO  
DEI DIARI

## Tweets

 [archivio dei diari](#)  
@archiviodiari

La frase del giorno!  
#5X1000 #grazieMarco  
[twitter.com/marcodor](https://twitter.com/marcodor)

# La morte, le trincee, il gas, le fucilazioni Cent'anni dopo i diari raccontano

QUESTO PROGETTO

IL VALORE DI UN DIARIO

PER INVIARE UNA TESTIMONIANZA

RACCONTANO LE LORO STORIE

ALTRI AUTORI



Filiberto Boccacci

Avevo 22 anni quando siamo entrati in guerra.

Racconto *vita in trincea, freddo, cibo, famiglia*



Gaetano Marzona

Avevo 6 anni quando siamo entrati in guerra.

Racconto *ritirata, nemici, cibo, fame*



Antonio Ferrara

Avevo 25 anni quando siamo entrati in guerra.

Racconto *vita in trincea, diserzioni, resa, cattura di*



# Quaker & Special Collections

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Diary of Henry Hale Graham Sharpless from June 26, 1868.

## Quaker Journals and Diaries

There are more than 700 manuscript journals in the collection. Some of these have been printed, such as those of William Hunt (1733-1772), the Revolutionary War journal of Margaret Hill Morris (1737-1816) and the four-volume journal of William Savery (1750-1804). Others are much too large to be published: Joshua L. Baily (1826-1916), 45 volumes; or the journals of the two Jacob Elfreths (1814-1924), 113 volumes.

Additional names in this collection include: George Churchman (1730-1814), Thomas Pim Cope (1768-1854), Elizabeth S. Drinker (ca. 1734-1807), Jane Maule (1847-1939), Joseph Scattergood (ca. 1770-1824), Joshua Sharpless (1746-1825), Sarah F. Smiley (1830-1917), Anna Spencer (ca. 1832-1905), Joseph Walton (1817-1898), Elizabeth Webb (1663-1726) and Julia A. Wilbur (1815-1895).

To use the diary of Thomas Pim Cope as an example, entries include such information as on the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Quaker schisms, national and international politics, the development of 19th-century Philadelphia, the founding of Haverford College as well as on Cope's personal life.

## Online Diaries



# Home Movies - Archivio Nazionale del Film di Famiglia

Organizzazione · Servizio di archiviazione · Restauro

Mi piace

+ Segui

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Diario

Informazioni

Foto

Recensioni

Altro ▾

Piace a 5.737 persone

11 persone sono state qui

Invita i tuoi amici a mettere "Mi piace" a questa Pagina

4,8 ★

4,8 di 5 stelle · 17 recensioni

Visualizza recensioni

INFORMAZIONI

Post

Scrivi qualcosa su questa Pagina...



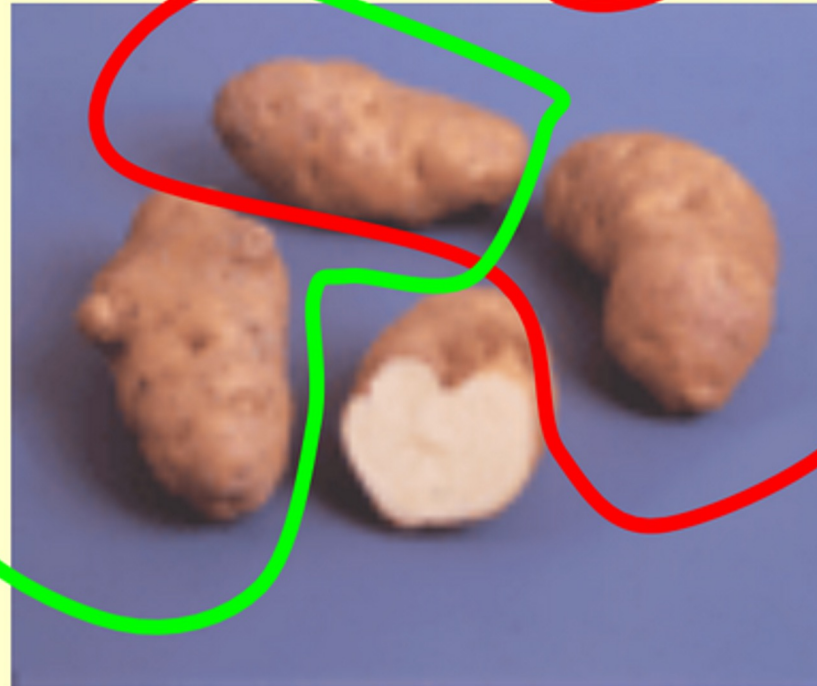
**Home Movies - Archivio Nazionale del Film di Famiglia**

20 giugno alle ore 13.13 · Modificato · 🌐

Nei giorni di Reunion Università di Bologna, dal nostro archivio una breve clip sulla Festa delle Matricole, l'evento che ogni anno animava le vie cittadine consegnando Bologna completa



# Valuable collective knowledge



[Angelini 2005]

# Valuable (folk) KOSs

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farmfolkcityfolk.c

a

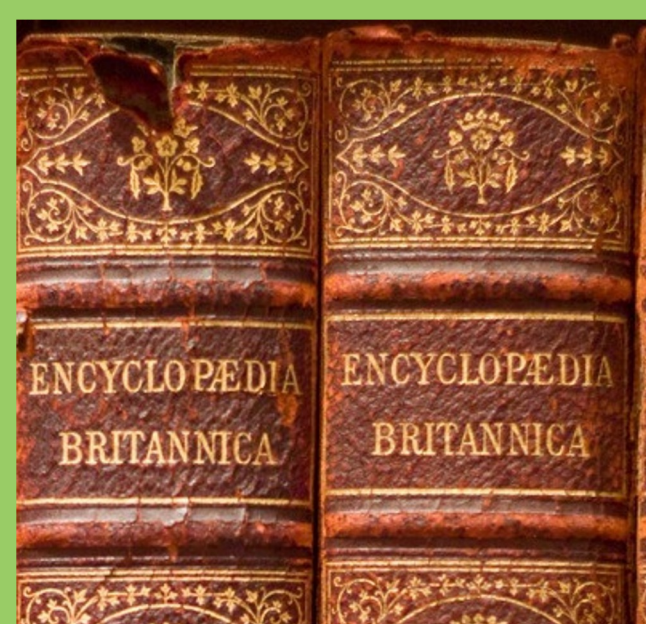
Very high logical depth...

# Documents

(= anything intentionally gathered  
in order to convey some knowledge)

"Documentality Beyond Documents" by Michael Buckland,  
*The Monist*, vol. 97, no. 2, pp. 179–186. Copyright © 2014, THE MONIST, Peru,

possibly the  
deepest  
entities overall



# Conclusions 1 / 2

Information is indeed valuable...

...but some forms are  
more than others.



# Conclusions 2/2

Documents and KOSs  
are especially valuable

→ **KO does make a big difference!**

# Thank you!

`claudio.gnoli@unipv.it`



`@scritur`

