

Octavia-Luciana Madge *Editor*

# New Trends and Challenges in Information Science and Information Seeking Behaviour

# Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems

Volume 193

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Octavia-Luciana Madge  
Editor

# New Trends and Challenges in Information Science and Information Seeking Behaviour

 Springer

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# Preface

This book has as its main purpose to bring to the attention of the scientific community important topics currently under investigation in information science research. It is intended for information science specialists and researchers, information professionals, librarians, undergraduate and postgraduate library and information science students, and anyone with an interest in new research in information science and the search for and use of information.

The field of information science has undergone many changes over recent decades. From its beginnings as a discipline concentrating on the communication and organisation of information, it has expanded into information technologies, information behaviour, information retrieval, the Internet and, more recently, gaming and gamification. This has paralleled the elevation of information and knowledge to the status of key strategic resources with the development of a global digital society. Education in the field of information science has evolved alongside these changes in research and practice.

The idea for this book grew out of an international conference held at the University of Bucharest in December 2018 entitled 'Information Science: New Challenges, New Approaches' - a major information science meeting to be held in Romania, and a milestone for the discipline in the country. Library and information science education was re-established in Romania in 1990, albeit under a human sciences umbrella in the Faculty of Letters. It was not until 2016 that the University of Bucharest's Doctoral School in Communication Sciences, then in its eighth year, welcomed its neighbouring discipline of information science, thanks to a PhD supervisor specialising in library and information science. Information science thus finally found an appropriate home in Romania, at least for doctoral studies.

It was within the framework of this Doctoral School that the 'New Challenges, New Approaches' conference was organised in 2018. The conference successfully outlined the current framework of information science, discussing the influence of new technologies on information needs, practices and behaviour, defining the current role of the information scientist and introducing the diverse research directions being pursued in the field. From the breadth of topics discussed at the conference came the idea for a volume that could capture some of the research concerns of information science scholars and mark the beginning of a new phase for the field in Romania.

Further events associated with the Doctoral School, covering such topics as the future challenges and possibilities for libraries, gamification, games and libraries, and changes in information seeking, strengthened the conviction that the time was right to publish a collection on the challenges and trends in the field.

The contributors to this volume include information science professors, leading game development researchers, major theorists of gaming and play and experienced practitioners in the domain of libraries, information and communication. Although some of the authors participated in the 2018 conference, this book comprises new contributions, not papers presented at that event. The book is divided into three parts by general theme, but each chapter stands alone and variations in authorial style and article structure have been maintained as a strength of the collection, representing a stylistic diversity that should be encouraged alongside new methodological approaches.

I would like to give thanks to all of the contributors to this volume for their work, but especially to Dr. Ari Haasio for his enthusiasm, support, encouragement and assistance at different stages of the shaping of this book, to Professors Jan Nolin, J. Tuomas Harviainen and Markku Mattila and to Dr. Arja Mäntykangas, former senior lecturer at the University of Borås, for her valuable comments and suggestions. I would also like to thank Mr. Titi Jalbă from E-nformation for his support in publishing this book.

Bucharest, Romania

Octavia-Luciana Madge

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