

Introduction to Informology

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of information plays an ever-more pivotal role in the 21st century information age. This editorial note defines informology as a field of science that deals with the phenomenon of information. The information as an important matter should be studied to identify its characteristics and values in the digital millennium. Informology, like other fields of science, needs to be studied and matured over the time. The *Informology* journal particularly attracts innovative research articles on information-related phenomena from emerging domain experts and early career researchers but also seeks to publish scholarly work by authors who combine research with academic teaching or other professional employment.

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Definition of Informology?

Informology is a compound noun coming from two words, “inform” and the suffix “-logy” as a word ending. “inform” stands for “information,” and the suffix “-ology” means “the study of.” There are many definitions of the words “-logy” and “-ology.” Now, we explain the most important definitions of them. “-logy” is a word ending that defines as the science or study of something. It is a colloquial or humorous name for any science or branch of knowledge (Dictionary.com, LLC, 2022). The root word, “-logy” comes from the Greek word “Logos.” It is a combining form that denotes a discourse, treatise, doctrine, theory, or science, such as psychology, and biology (Merriam-Webster, Incorporated, 2022). The word ology is a back-formation from the names of these disciplines. Such words are formed from Greek or Latin roots with the terminal -logy derived from the Greek suffix -λογία (-logia), speaking, from λεγειν (legein), to speak (Farlex, Inc., 2022).

The names of sciences or departments of study, like “*informology*,” always have a noun for their first element, and *o* is the combining vowel of all declensions of Greek nouns, the ending of these compounds is in actual use always *-λογία*, becoming *-ology* in English. The names of sciences with this ending are very numerous: some represent words already formed in Greek, such as theology and astrology; many represent formations, which might legitimately have existed in Greek, such as psychology, geology, and zoology; others are of hybrid composition, as sociology, terminology, insectology. The modern formations in *-logy* follow the analogy of Greek formations in having *o* as the combining vowel; exceptions are petrology and mineralogy (French *minéralogie*), which may be viewed as a contraction for mineralogy. The suffix *-ology* is freely used to form humorous nonce-words (Oxford University Press, 2022). There are about 400 different *-ologies* listed in Chambers Dictionary (2022), but in about 90 % of cases *-ology* means the study, theory, art, or science of a subject.

The term “*informology*” was first coined in 1993 by Dr. Abbas Horri, an Iranian information scientist who has worked at the University of Tehran in Iran (Horri, 1993). A Russian researcher used it a year later (Mokiy, 1994). While these authors lived in different countries and were unaware of each other’s works, they used the term independently with two different meanings in two different contexts. *Informology*, as Horri defined it, is a fundamental domain that attempts to study “*information*” and its framework, dimensions, and aspects. The study of information is not a new area, and information has been studied since the 1940s. *Informology*, in this sense, can be considered a sub-domain of library and information science (LIS). However, the theory of *informology*, as the Russian researchers have developed, it deals with information regarding information systems, ICT infrastructures, and information environment. It deals with space, the spatial organization of information, and the regularities of spatial construction of information systems.

Karvalics (2020) believe that the approaches of the two inventors of the term *informology*, Horri, and Mokij, were markedly different from each other. The first intended to summarize the frameworks, dimensions, and aspects of “*information*” from a structuralist point of view as a sub-area or subordinate to “*information science*”. The second described the relationship of information systems and the information environment, the spatial arrangement of information, and the laws of spatial information systems from a dynamic system viewpoint.

The term *informology* is also used as the modern paradigm of information science (Partyko, 2009) and the alternative term of information science in the traditional sense (Karvalics, 2020). Karvalics (2020) defined it as “*the extension of information science to every information phenomenon and terrain that was previously excluded.*” In addition, *informology* is explained as a new science in the field of information science in general and in the field of information philosophy in particular (Faraji, 2016). Furthermore, some universities and academic institutions,

such as the Institute of Journalism of [Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University](#) in Ukraine, use the term informology as the alternative term of information science in the name of the [department](#) and in the parallel title of a [journal](#). In the Ukrainian and Russian literature, the terms “informology” and “information science” are sometimes considered synonyms, sometimes not (as, for example, in the aforementioned university, in which the term “informology” is understood to be equivalent to “information science”).

It is worth noting that the concept of “informology” has been used in the Russian, Persian, Ukrainian, and English scientific literature, since the 1970s in the specific context and content (e.g., Otten & Debons, 1970; Kogan, 1985; Horri, 1993; Moki, 1994; Mokii, Zhamborova, & Shegai, 1999; Yunesco, 2000; Bondarevsky, 2012; Nesterovich, 2015; Shakotko, 2017).

In the context of this journal, informology is a “problem-oriented discipline” (Belkin & Robertson, 1976) concerned with the study and theory of the phenomenon of information. Informology encompasses all studies of information-related phenomena. In other words, informology is the study of information and its characteristics, including its creation, collecting, organizing, processing, searching, access, accuracy, ambiguity, availability, channels (formal or informal), completeness, complexity, conflict, consistency, content, context, degradation, delay, familiarity, fluency, formats, formatting, importance, informativeness, novelty, precision, quality, relevance, reliability, repetition, timeliness, transparency, types, uncertainty, usage, validity, value, and so on.

A Note on the Informology journal

We are delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the journal of “*Informology*,” an international journal on informology (the study of information, information science, and technology). With your help, we hope to make this *journal* a regular biannual periodical for this era of science, starting with two issues this year. Thanks to all the contributors. The *Informology* journal has a scientific–analytical approach and deals with theoretical, practical, functional, conceptual, and experimental aspects of informology, information science, and all related domains. The journal of *Informology* attempts to provide a suitable context for enhancing thought and research skills on informology. So, all researchers, students, librarians, information scientists, and information professionals whose professions are related to information are the potential audiences of the journal of *Informology*.

We are now exploring the possibility of regular publication of *Informology* to take over that function and would welcome comments from researchers and readers, as well as from those who like to write for our journal. The journal of *Informology* is an international peer-reviewed open-access biannual journal. Therefore, authors retain unrestricted copyrights and publishing rights.

The author has complete control over the work (e.g., retains the right to reuse, distribute, republish, etc.). The journal of *Informology* welcomes submissions of original, unpublished research and discussion articles that are not currently under review elsewhere, and book reviews.

The journal of *Informology* follows the [APA Manual of Style](#) (7th Edition). References should be listed in alphabetical order and presented in a format according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, seventh edition.

Open Calls for Paper

As *Informology* has a mission to support the development and dissemination of research findings by early career and post-graduate researchers, we are especially pleased to receive manuscripts from emerging scholars or first-time authors.

If this issue has whetted your appetite to consider contributing to *Informology*, then you will be pleased to know the journal welcomes submissions throughout the year on any subject with no deadline. The manuscripts that successfully pass the review process will subsequently be accepted for publication in the next issue of the journal.

Informology is delighted to welcome submissions of research or review articles to be considered for peer-reviewed publication. Manuscripts can be submitted on any topic, ideally written for a multi and interdisciplinary audience. We are especially pleased to consider work that incorporates elements of interdisciplinary methods, methodology, or thinking.

Acknowledgments

We want to take this opportunity, on behalf of our readers, to thank all of the individuals who have given their time and talents to help the *Informology* journal. We recognize and thank the members of our Editorial Board, International Editorial Board, and Editorial Review Board, as well as all our authors and reviewers, for their vital intellectual contributions to this issue. Their high-quality work, time commitment, and dedication have been invaluable. Without you, producing a quality-assured, peer-reviewed, scholar-led publication would not be possible.

Data Availability Statement

Not applicable.

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