The emerging discipline of Information Logistics in need of a Systemic Foundation

Urgent Empirical Concerns

- 2004 – the tragic Tsunami Catastrophe in South East Asia
- 2009 – the disaster created by the earth quake in L’Aquila, Italy
- app. 90% of people with cancer may be healed if the treatment is started early
- organisations lose efficiency due to inability to access right information; ex: pharmaceutical company’s submission of drug registration to FDA may require 6-8 month handling; 50% of this time may be reduced by a direct access to right information!
- In our Information Societies, there is more information than ever yet there also is more miss-information ever!

An Inquiry into Information Logistics

A conducted mapping of IL-research shows that:
- it has a significant presence on the Internet (no. of hits)
- there are companies all over the world offering IL-services
- these include a variety of information handling services
- IL research has been published at least during the last three decades
- the 1st IL-publications came in 1978 from Harvard Univ., USA
- 10 distinct IL-research directions have been identified
- 4 IL-directions are currently active, all in Europe
- there is no one and common notion of Information Logistics
- yet, they are all concerned with delivery of the right information

Information Logistics

Addresses the questions of how to provide the right actor with the right information, at the right time and place, in the right format, through the right channel, at the right cost, etc. Contrary to current trends, IL stresses the question of information, its meaning and quality, rather than the technology for its processing.

Information Logistics needs Systemic Foundations

IL-phenomena
- are inherent in all human affairs (e.g. the Greek soldier run from Marathon...)
- are empirical
- are multi-disciplinary
- include characteristics that are ethical aesthetical, social, historical, economic, juridical, psychological, informational, physical, technological and numerical
- require both are both analytical and design oriented inquiries
- require approaches from natural and social sciences
- and critical (normative) awareness

At Växjö University, Southern Sweden, a research and educational program is pursued concerned with the exploration and development of Information Logistics aimed at serving human kind and human affairs. The research team includes: Prof. Anita MIRIAM DOTTER, Chair of Informatics, Dr. Darek M. HAFTO, senior research associate, Miranda KAHTAZI, PhD student.