

# The Underlying Conceptual Development of Information Science

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Background rationale: An examination of a number of publications which have appeared during the 1980's has left me, and all of us, with knowledge of who was doing what in the field of information science since the end of the Second World War. The historical accounts of the developments in the field range from Boyd Rayword's paper for the spring issue (1985) of the Journal of Library History to the booklength publication in 1989 of A History of Information Science, 1945-1985 by D. B. Lilley and R. W. Trice. Most of the items which I have seen and read devote themselves to two important facets of historical development -- the people and events which can be seen as highlights in the field -- from Vannevar Bush to Christine Borgman -- and to the relationship (or lack of it) between library science and information science. One work, H. Curtis Wright's, Jesse Shera, Librarianship, and Information Science puts forward the proposition that there is a schism between the two, due to the anti-intellectualism and pragmatism which he finds to be the all-consuming characteristics of the information scientists. No one, it appears to me, at least not in the Anglo-American world, has done anything about examining the development of information science from the standpoint of the conceptual frameworks in which the people who were involved in the "highlights" were working. The closest thing we have to such an examination is the work edited by Machlup and Mansfield, The Study of Information, interdisciplinary messages. This examines in considerable, and admirable detail, the inter-relationships among the various disciplines which have contributed to studying information and looks at the relationships among them. It is more current than historical, and it occurs to me that some examination of background thinking and developments would be a useful contribution to the literature of the field.

- N. Belkin - information seeking behavior
- "Sociometrics" - journal of bibliometrics??
- "Foundations of Information Science" - B. Bowker