

A Unified Theory of Information as Transdisciplinary Framework

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Information seems to be as fundamental a building block of the universe as matter and energy is. So far, however, there is no common agreed-upon concept of information.

There is still a deep cleavage between the so-called two cultures of science and technology on the one hand, and the humanities on the other. The first is characterized by a technologically circumscribed rationality. The second is characterized by a humanistic rationality which is ignorant of the field of science and technology.

They express certain ways of thinking which are characterised by how they relate identity and difference:

- either the different sides are considered identical, that is, either side of the difference may be regarded as the base of identity; hence one way of thinking establishes identity by eliminating the difference at the cost of the differentiated side, it reduces the differentiated side to the undifferentiated one what is known as reductionism; another way of thinking establishes identity by eliminating the difference at the cost of the undifferentiated side, it takes the differentiated side as its point of departure and projects (extrapolates) from there to the undifferentiated one and may be called projectionism;
- or the different sides are considered different, that is, all relationships between them are abandoned (they are dichotomised); this way of thinking establishes the difference by eliminating identity; it dissociates both sides of the difference and treats them as disjunctive; this is what dualism (pluralism) is about;
- or they are considered to be both identical and different so as to establish identity in line with the difference; this way of thinking integrates both sides of the difference and differentiates the identical at the same time; it is a way of thinking that is based upon integration and differentiation and may be termed dialectic as it includes opposites.