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| Title | **Information Overload** |
| **Due Date** | **Due Monday** |
| Where to Post | Click on "New Post" button above and type your response in the space provided below.  Click Save. |
| Subject | Your Name / Information Overload |
| Points | 10 |
| Criteria | * Assignment is submitted on time, follows instructions, and uses correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. * Demonstrate that you have read and considered the reading in your responses. * Provide ideas or examples that demonstrate thoughtful consideration of information overload. |
| Objective | * Understand information overload and develop a plan to manage it. |

#### **Step One: Assignment**

Read the articles on Information overload (linked below). Develop a plan to manage information in your life. Develop a definition of information overload. Write a 200 word essay on your plan and your definition for information overload. Be thoughtful, specific and original. Respond to two classmates' essays by Wednesday with a minimum response of 50 words each.

#### **Required Readings:**

* [Envisioning the Whole Digital Person](http://www.uxmatters.com/mt/archives/2007/02/envisioning-the-whole-digital-person.php)

* [Coping with Information Overload and Keeping up with your Profession](http://library.humboldt.edu/ic/general_competency/overload.html)

“Ultimately, information liiterate people are those who have learned how to learn. They know how to learn because they know how knowledge is organized, how to find information, and how to use information in such a way that others can learn from them. They are people prepared for lifelong learning, because they can always find the information needed for any task or decision at hand.” American Library Association Presidential Commission on Information Literacy

* Alvin Toffler wrote in *Rethinking the Future* that, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

#### **Step Two: Discussion Forum Guidelines:**

In addition to your written assignments, throughout the quarter you will participate in a discussion related to some aspect of the course. The purpose of having these discussions is to encourage students to think critically about the course content and engage with each other about ideas and issues related to information. Participate meaningfully in the discussion forum by responding to classmates with comments or questions that promote discussion.

These information discussions can be one of the most interesting experiences in this class. It is up to you to engage in thoughtful and creative conversation about the readings. This includes asking provocative questions as well as sharing your life experience in regard to the topic.

You will be graded on your understanding of information overload based on the readings, on the thoughtfulness of your plan to cope with information overload now and in the future, on your definition of information overload and on the quality of your responses to two of your classmates.

#### **Step Three:**

Write your 200 word essay on information overload. Understand information overload and develop a plan to manage it.

#### **Step Four:**

Post your essay to the Discussion Forum below.

#### **Step Five:**

Respond thoughtfully to the essays of two of your classmates with a response of 50 - 75 words.

During this course, you will often be asked to give a response to the essays of one or two classmates. Your responses could follow the formula below:

\*Comment briefly on something you really liked in the essay. Gently comment on something in the essay that you think could be improved. Relate your classmate's comments to your own experience.

BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF A RESPONSE TO AN INFORMATION OVERLOAD ESSAY. You can use this as an example for your responses over the quarter.

"You sound like you stay well-organized. I think that with the Internet, as you say, it is easy to scan for the information we want. However, I would argue that at the same time this can still cause information overload. There are literally endless amounts of information on the Internet, so much so that it can be easy to get lost in the sea of data that is the Web. I suggest that you decide on what you want to learn and then think about where credible sources of information would be. Focus your research on those sources. I know I am overwhelmed when I get 5 million hits on Google. You are right that good organization is a key to managing information."

Post below.