"I'd Rather Not Know": Ways of Thinking and Talking about Information Avoidance

Professor Donald Case has been interested in studies of information behaviour for over 30 years. He is the author of over 40 journal articles on information seeking, information technology and other topics. Case's book, "Looking for Information: A Survey of Research on Information Seeking, Needs, and Behavior" (2002) was given the "Best Book of the Year" Award by the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). A third edition of "Looking" appeared in 2012. During 2008-2009, Donald was President of ASIS&T, and currently serves on the Editorial Board for JASIS&T. He has held the post of Professor in the University of Kentucky College of Communication and Information Studies since 1994. Before joining UK Case was a faculty member at the University of California, Los Angeles, from 1983 to 1994. During 1989 he received a Fulbright Fellowship to lecture at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal, and during fall of 2011 he undertook a one-month Fulbright lectureship at three Finnish universities.

Event summary: Many researchers focus on how people seek information to address particular questions, such as side-effects of a medical treatment, or how to improve their grades at school. Yet we know that people may avoid information if paying attention to it might cause mental discomfort. Many psychological concepts are relevant to the decision not to learn, acknowledge, or act upon, uncomfortable facts: repression, denial, avoidance, distraction, escape, selective exposure, cognitive consistency, coping, terror management, uncertainty management, and uncertainty navigation, to name the more prominent labels. How do each of these concepts relate to a decision, or tendency, not to seek information? What are the implications for members of the public when looking for information to make choices in their daily lives?

A jointly hosted event by the State Library of New South Wales and the Information Practices Research Group, School of Information Studies, Charles Sturt University

EVENT DETAILS
5:30-7:00pm
Monday, 29 April 2013

VENUE
State Library of New South Wales Metcalfe Auditorium
Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000,
Meet in the Macquarie St foyer

RSVP (*strictly limited numbers*)
State Library of NSW
Bookings Office
Telephone: 02 9273 1770
Facsimile: 02 9273 1248
E-mail: bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au
To book on line please visit
http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/all_events.html

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