

The Influence of Information Overload on Students' Academic Performance

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Abstract

There is no generally agreed with the definition of information overload, yet many of us had experiencing it. Information overload, usually characterized by an overabundance of information, it is a main cause of concern for general information users, researchers and information managers. In this article it is shown how the relationships of the influence of information overload on student's academic performance. For students, academic performance is important in displays their successful of their academic. It also outlines people, task, technology and information as the influence of information overload. Aim of this paper is to propose a framework regarding the influence of information overload on the student's academic performance.

Keywords: Framework, Information Load, Information Overload, Academic Performance, Information Technology

1. Introduction

Nowadays, we live in the information age as we are surrounded by technology. Information nowadays is like water which is easy to be spread with the help of devices such as a smartphone, tablet, phablet, laptop, and so on. Information is easy to be created, disseminate or shared with others. With the help of the internet, everything seems to be easy. In this information age, it is a cliché that we are all drowning in too much information. Many of us acknowledge the existence of information overload, but few realize how serious this problem is especially when it is involved with students and their academic performance.

In this paper, the literature review is presented on the topic of the influence of information overload on students' academic performance and will be explained more and deep elaboration of the influence or cause of information overload on student academic performance. This article also will cover up the level(s) of analysis, the imitations, the scope of reviews and methodology. (Webster & T. Watson, 2002). There is various studies have been done on information overload over the year to see the development of the field as well as to study the scholar behaviour towards the influence of information overload. Most of them cover the study among the employee or staff, and some of them might be too general and not focusing on any group. Some of the intentions were driven by the journal reputation such as the impact of information overload, causes of information overload, the use of technology and information overload and so on that allow for a better relationship and many others. This paper

also wants to explore more the relationship between all those factors of information overload on students' academic performance.

The problem of information overload has been receiving increasing attention, while there are less empirical researches for this problem, especially among students. We live in the information age which information is growing exponentially cause from mass of communication and information channels, innovations and the mass adoption of technology. Media revolution has changed the world, not only to access but also contribute to those channels and mediums from all places. Nowadays, we can look up information wherever we want to and do not have to wait anymore. Plus, more information is pushed to us by others by using media social or other communication channels. This situation had led us to the new state of being always connected and always engaged with the communication network like the Internet we subscribed. Having too much information prevented us especially student from making accurate adjustments to their evaluation process which in turn, impeded (delayed) learning then, student academic performance will be affected.

The objective of this paper is to review and proposed the new framework of the influence of information overload on student's academic performance. Some studies also had been reviewed in this paper to support the proposed framework.

2. Literature Review

For this theoretical review section, it will deal with the entire variable identified and selected as presented in the theoretical framework. The study of the framework is based on the several articles selected. Those theoretical and all the details on the studies will be explained to strengthen this paper.

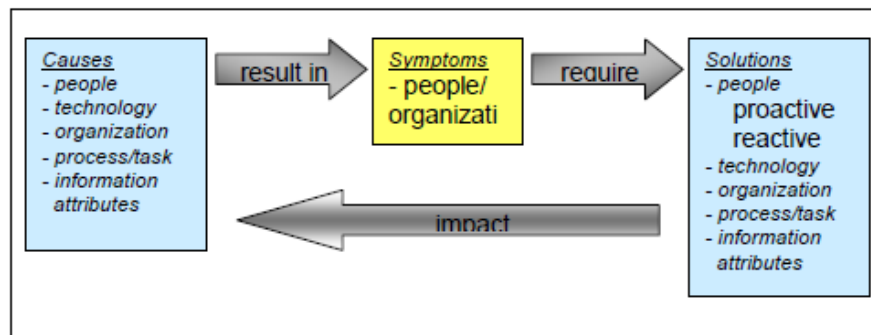


Figure 1. (Ruff, 2002)

The first theoretical framework review for this study entitled "*Information Overload: Causes, Symptoms and Solutions*" by Joseph Ruff in 2002. The study by Joseph was conducted to look at the severity of the problem or symptoms and the study also explore its causes and offer possible solutions. This study focused on knowledge and information management workers. Some of the factors are studied by other researchers also that will be explained and showed in this study. It also suggests several solutions related to the cause of information overload. As we can see that the framework for the study is cyclical rather than liner because cause, symptom, and solution always are in cyclical in the study among knowledge and information workers. Researcher for the study also enhances the important of awareness in

taking the initiative to prevent information overload by suggesting many solutions related to the cause and symptom of information overload.

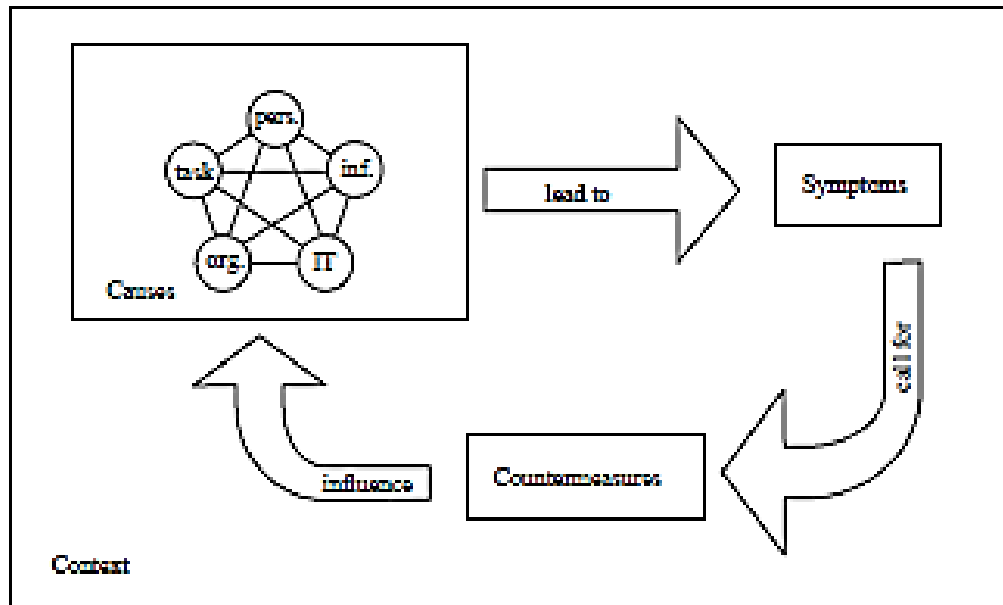


Figure 2. (Eppler & Mengis, 2003)

The second framework is entitled “A Framework for Information Overload Research in Organizations” by Martin J. Eppler and Jeanne Mengis. The study is done to analyse the contribution the last thirty years to consolidate the existing research in a conceptual framework, to identify future research directions, and to highlight implications for management. The study is conceptual research and cyclical as the researcher claims that models use in information overload should no longer use linear model but should focus on interdependencies. This study also enhance the influence of information overload is somehow impact the in the management field.

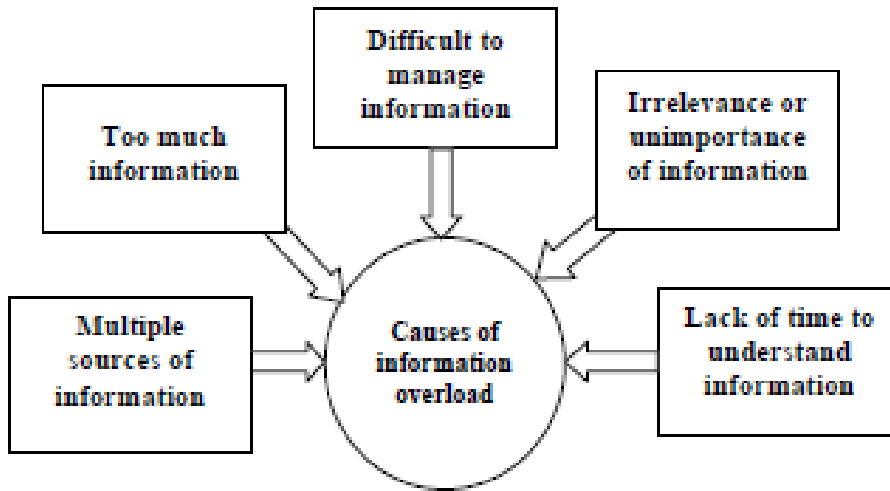


Figure 3. (Kazi Mostak Gausul Hoq, 2014)

The third framework is entitled *“Information Overload: Causes, Consequences, and Remedies: A Study”* by Kazi Mostak Gausul Hoq which is an Associate Professor, Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka. The study of this third theoretical review is to analyse the cause of information overload in the 21st century, and some suggestion was made to overcome this problem. The study also stressed the importance of information professionals, computer scientist, and academics to develop some techniques and technologies for countering the information overload effects.

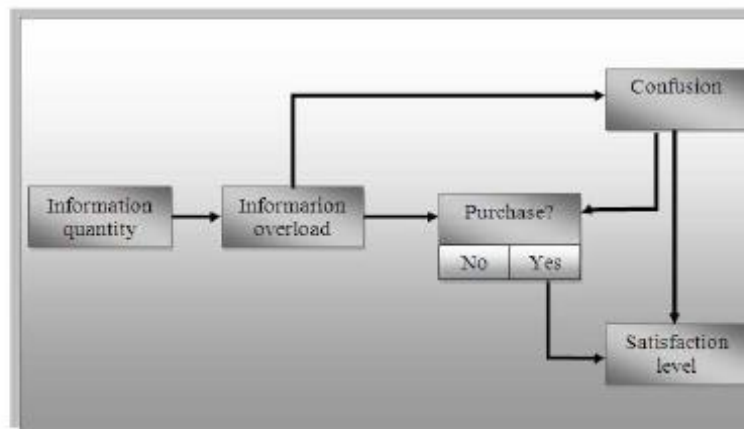


Figure 4. (Lucian & Farias, 2009)

The fourth study is entitled *“Effects of Information Overload on Brazilian E-Consumers”* by Rafael Lucian and Salomão Alencar de Farias. The study was focused on the Brazilian Consumers. The aim is to measure whether there is a relationship between the information overload in the virtual environment and the response of the satisfaction and confusion of the consumers. Research had exploratory-experimental character and it was used a quasi-

experiment. Two samples were attained, firstly is controlled with 114 respondents while the second is with 178 cases reported. Central tendency and dispersion, multivariate (factor analysis) and non-parametric (Mann-Whitney U test) which are all data analysis that was made though descriptive statistics. The researchers suggest that other researcher might study the other responses with the information overload.

3. Proposed Framework

This framework is proposed to show the relationship of the influence of information overload such as people, task or process, technology and information on student’s academic performance. Influence of information overload in this study is measured by four independent variables; *people, task or process, technology and information* while the dependent variable is *student's academic performance*. Some previous studies are referred to enhance and strengthen this study. The researcher found that research in information overload among students by empirical research is not many conducted by other researchers, so researcher would like to explore more on this empirical research and to explore the relationship of those factors on students’ academic performance.

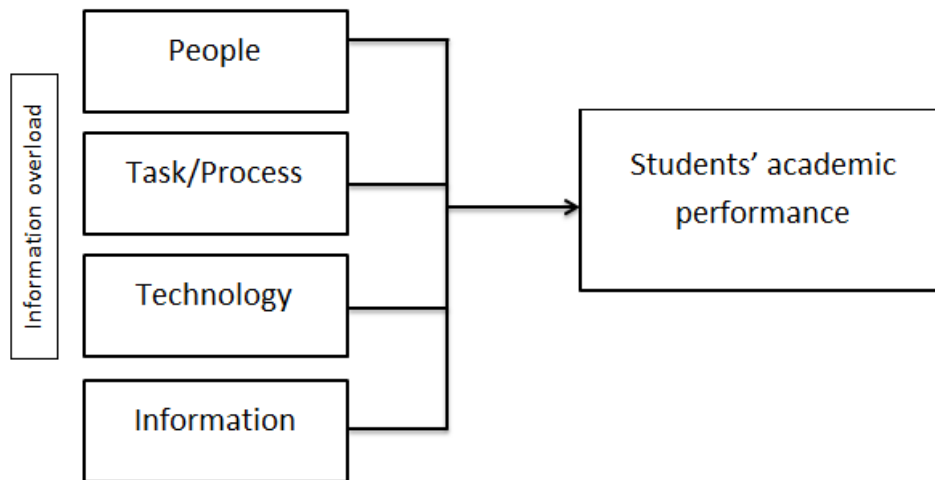


Figure 5. Proposed Framework

4. Conclusion

As a conclusion, the expected outcome of this paper is to show the relationship of the influence of information overload on student’s academic performance and suggest ways to overcome the problem of information overload there are some factors that can cause information overload such as from people, task or performance, technology and information that may give some impact to students’ academic performance. As we know being student is not an easy task. Learning is a process to get knowledge. In order to get knowledge, a lot of information must be searched and get from many resources. Too many information will lead students to information overload. As a student, they might have other commitment to do and a

sometimes time constraint is the issue. Some previous studies are referred to enhance and strengthen this study. The researcher found that research in information overload among students by empirical research is not many conducted by other researchers, so researcher would like to explore more on this empirical research and to explore the relationship of those factors on students' academic performance.

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