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**DE SAULLES, Martin. *Information 2.0: New models of information production, distribution and consumption*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London: Facet. 2015. 163 pages. ISBN-10 1 78330 009 9. £49.95**

Three years on from the original publication of *Information 2.0: New models of information production, distribution and consumption*, Martin De Saulles returns with an updated edition of the text which includes new data and extra sections reflecting more recent developments in the information world. As with the original edition, the text is intended to be a reasonably brief and accessible overview of the information landscape and uses case studies from different contexts, including education, government and commerce, to illustrate various topics of discussion. Given the breadth of the content, the book is likely to be of interest to a wide range of information professionals and indeed anyone studying contemporary, post-industrial society and culture.

The chapters in the book are arranged to follow the lifecycle of information from production and storage through to distribution, and consumption. In the first of these chapters, which focuses on information production, De Saulles covers the disruption of traditional models of news publication due to the rise of user generated content, created and disseminated through social media. The development of ‘big data’ is also described in this chapter with reference to its vast potential but also tempered with observations about the associated challenges of storing and making this data usable and meaningful. The increasing commercial value of ‘big data’ is also looked at with some reflections on the potential risks to individual privacy and autonomy that could result from the un-regulated use of such information.

In the next chapter, De Saulles reviews aspects of information storage including how increases in the power and capacity of personal technology, combined with lowering prices, are allowing us to store more information than ever before on an individual level. He also discusses the move towards storage of information in the ‘cloud’, which, despite the ethereal quality of the term, is interestingly revealed to rely on massive server facilities, of increasing scale, which are very much based on terra firma. No-where is this more clearly illustrated than in the “Iron Mountain” case study. Despite these technological developments it is interesting to note that De Saulles considers there to be increasing risks to the long term storage of information and highlights the danger of irrecoverable loss of information due to technological expiration and format obsolescence. This raises the question of how we can future proof information storage and so ideas around file format standardization are also explored.

In the final chapters on information distribution and consumption, the overriding theme is that of how open systems of information distribution have disrupted traditional models, creating tension between those seeking to make money from information and those who want it to be freely available. De Saulles describes how the internet has prospered by being an open system that can be used in whatever way its users choose and how, in contrast, commercial information providers have sought to maintain control of distribution, and the profits thereof, by developing closed technological systems which offer convenience in return for

reduced freedom of choice. As with the first chapter of the book, there are no conclusions as to whether one specific model has, or will, gain ascendancy but instead the dynamic that is created between these two positions is charted with reference to case studies from the music and film publishing industry, as well as education and government. The trend towards the leasing of digital information rather than ownership is also discussed along with the associated implications that this has for individuals' and organizations' rights around sharing or re-distributing information.

While most of the topics in the book were not directly applied to libraries specifically there were plenty of issues, like those mentioned in the last two chapters, which will resonate with practitioners in this area. For example, anyone working in a library will, more than likely, be familiar with the everyday manifestations of these issues in the form of rising database and journal subscription costs, juxtaposed with the development of the Open Access movement. Also of interest were the inferred and explicit references to the need for an increased level of technological knowledge on all levels of information practice, while still highlighting the importance of traditional information skills such classification and information curation in the development of technology.

*Information 2.0* achieves what it sets out to, which is to provide a general picture of the information landscape in which we all currently operate in one way or another. De Saulles, for the most part, admirably steers clear of spurious technological predictions which afflict other texts of a similar nature, and the futility of which he himself comments upon. The information provided is easy to engage with and balances conceptual ideas well with the use of real-life case studies. The focus on providing an overview does mean that the text is more descriptive than analytical and therefore offers little to those seeking practical advice on dealing with the implications of the issues being described, but this is perhaps an unfair criticism given the intention of the book. The content will not be radically new to anyone working in the information profession but does serve as a useful reminder of the issues facing us. For me, it was an opportunity to re-engage with some of the long term challenges and opportunities which will continue to affect day to day practice for the foreseeable future and also to consider, at a deeper level, the direction of my practice in light of these things.

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