

THE INFORMATION EXPLOSION

1. “The world’s total yearly production of print, film, optical, and magnetic content would require roughly 1.5 billion gigabytes of storage. This is the equivalent of 250 megabytes per person for each man, woman, and child on earth.” (Peter Lyman and Hal R. Varian, *How Much Information*, 2003; www2.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info/)
2. “Print, film, magnetic, and optical storage media produced about 5 exabytes of new information in 2002.” Five exabytes of information is equivalent to 37,000 digitized copies of all seventeen million books in the Library of Congress. (*ibid.*)
3. “A single weekday edition of *The New York Times* today contains more information than an average person in the 17th century would have encountered in a lifetime...New statistics show that the average person in a large corporation sends and receives an astounding 177 messages a day...” (Jennifer Tanaka, “Drowning in Data,” *Newsweek*, 4/28/98, p. 85)
4. “Useful, job-oriented knowledge is becoming increasingly perishable. The half-life of an engineer’s professional information today is five years... Eighty-five percent of the information in U.S. National Institutes of Health computers is upgraded in five years.” (Marvin Cetron and Owen Davies, *Crystal Globe*, New York, St. Martin’s Press, 1991, pp. 361-2)
5. “By the time today’s kindergartners graduate from high school, the amount of knowledge in the world will have doubled four times. The Class of 2000 will be exposed to more information in one year than their grandparents encountered in their entire lives. They will have to assimilate more inventions and more information than have appeared in the last 150 years.” (Marvin Cetron and Owen Davies, *American Renaissance*, New York, St. Martin’s Press, 1989, p. 65)