

Methodology Shift in Information Studies

Yixin ZHONG

University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing 100876, China

e-mail: zyx@bupt.edu.cn

Abstract: Information studies has been so diversified nowadays that the unified theory of information seems very hard to establish. To this phenomenon, people with different backgrounds in academy may have different explanations. To my understanding, the major factor responsible for the diversity is the improper methodology people use in information studies. As is well known, the studies of information science are so different from that of physical science. However, most of us are still employing the methodology, which is only suitable for the studies of physical science. Therefore, information studies should experience a great shift in methodology, shifting from the traditional approach featured by “divide and conquer” or reductionism in physical science to the complex science methodology, which is featured by the information approach, system approach, ecology approach, and the approach of interaction between subject and object. This is because of the fact that information science is really a sort of complex science. This talk will provide an analysis for the methodology shift in information studies and an explanation to the general model for information studies derived from complex science methodology.