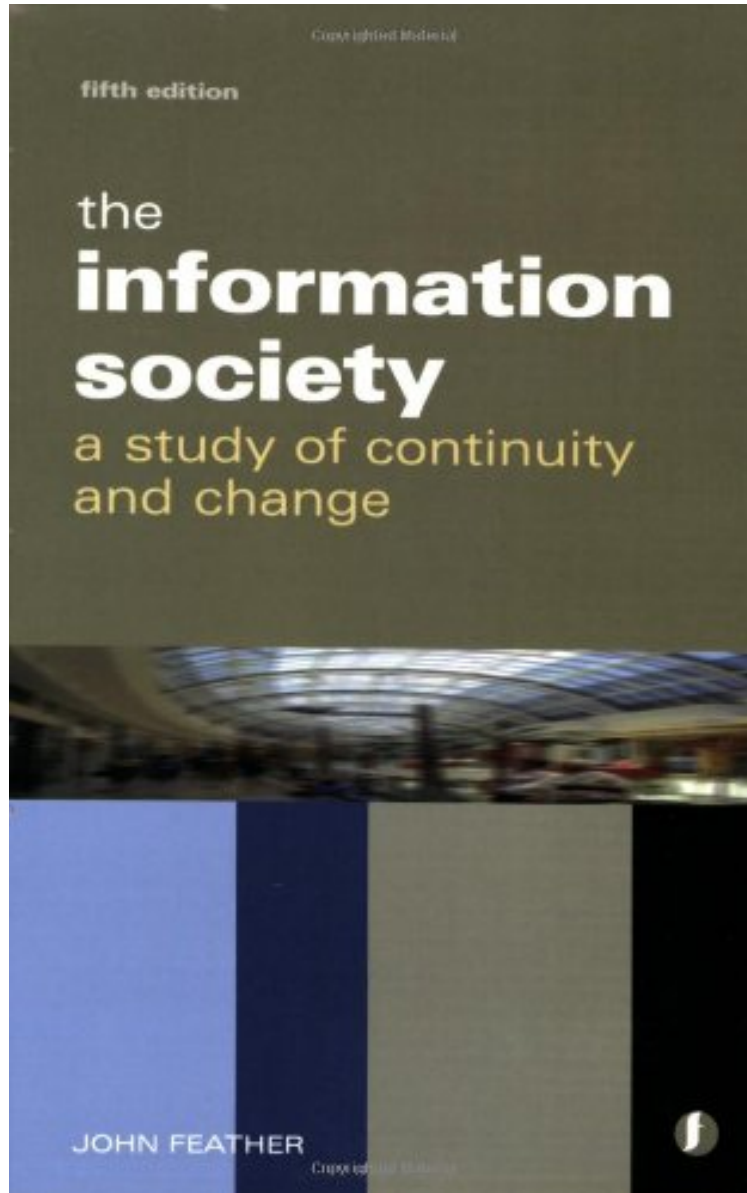


The Information Society: A Study of Continuity and Change

John Feather

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John Feather : The Information Society: A Study of Continuity and Change before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Information Society: A Study of Continuity and Change:

About previous editions: 'This book presents a lucid and easily absorbed review of a complex and turbulent field...a masterly, sweeping study' - Education for Information. 'It gives an excellent overview and places the issues in the wider context often lacking in books written for university curricula. Highly recommended' - "Information World Review". 'It should be a must on all library and information science course lists and I will certainly be recommending it to my own cohort of future information professionals...' - "Journal of Documentation". 'It is excellent to read a text of this sort that draws upon examples from many different countries...an outstanding text that I would recommend to any student commencing graduate study in LIS' - "Australian Library Journal". What is information? Who are the information rich and who are the information poor? How can there be equality of access for users in the light of the economic and cultural pressures that are placed upon information gatherers and keepers? Set against a broad historical backdrop, "The Information Society" explores the information revolution that continues to gather pace. The commercial value of information becomes increasingly important in a world where data can be transmitted in a split second. This latest edition takes full account of significant developments since 2004. The advanced technologies and systems of a decade ago are falling into disuse; the floppy disk has all but vanished, and the CD-ROM will surely follow. Simple phrases like 'Web 2.0' or 'the social web' conceal rather than explain the significance of the concepts that they embody. As the quantity of personal digitized information continues to grow exponentially, so do both the benefits of exploiting it and the dangers of misusing it. The use of ICT to make government more accessible has to be balanced against the use of technologies that enable the state to be more vigilant or more intrusive, according to one's point of view. Behind all of this lies further technical change: the massive expansion of connectivity to high-speed broadband networks; the phased abandonment of analogue broadcasting; and the development of multi-functional mobile devices which carry voice, video and data and which can themselves be carried anywhere. The implications for daily life, for education, for work and for social and political relationships are massive. This questioning, open-minded look at the information profession and its break-out from the traditional boundaries of librarianship will interest all information professionals. It is also invaluable for students on courses in information, librarianship and communications studies, where an understanding of the nature of the information society is an essential underpinning of more advanced work.

Its wide-ranging overview will be useful to anyone interested in the political, economic and social implications of the changing ways information is produced and managed. --Information World, October 2008
Praise for previous editions: It should be a must on all library and information science course lists. --Journal of Documentation
Praise for previous editions: A masterly, sweeping study. --Education for Information
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FCLIP is Professor of Library and Information Studies, and Associate Dean (Research), Loughborough University; he is a former Pro-Vice Chancellor of Loughborough University.