

## Title

**Curators of the infosphere?: what's the good of PI for LIS (and vice versa)?**

## Organisers

David Bawden and Lyn Robinson (City, University of London)

## Key participants

David Bawden [panel chair] (City, University of London)

Luciano Floridi [discussant] (Oxford Internet Institute)

Charles Ess [panel member] (University of Oslo)

Jonathan Furner [[panel member] (UCLA)

Hans-Christoph Hobohm [panel member] (Fachhochschule Potsdam)

Betsy Van der Veer Martens [panel member] (University of Oklahoma)

Lyn Robinson [panel member] (City, University of London)

## Abstract

This is an interactive panel session, in which the panel members, and Luciano Floridi as discussant, engage with the audience to debate the value and potential of Floridi's Philosophy of Information as a foundation for library/information science. We hope to identify both positive aspects, and points of criticism/misgivings, relating to the idea of LIS as applied PI. We will then discuss a research and dissemination agenda, and identify a group interested in carrying it forward.

The initial discussion will be focused around the issues identified in D Bawden and L Robinson, Curating the infosphere: Luciano Floridi's Philosophy of Information as the foundation for Library and Information Science, *Journal of Documentation*, 2017, vol.73, issue 5 [<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/17713>]

## Description

**Purpose and intended audience:** The intended audience is faculty and researchers interested in the foundations of the information sciences. The aim of the session is to propose a programme of research and dissemination aimed at applying Floridi's Philosophy of Information within LIS, and to identify a group of people interested in taking this further. Its position in the conference programme allows participants to engage with, and debate, the issues raised in Prof Floridi's keynote talk, which immediately precedes it.

## Proposed activities

Each of the panellists gives a very short (5 minutes max.) account of an aspect of PI which they think makes it relevant for the information sciences, plus any misgivings they have about it. Then the audience are invited to engage in a wider discussion, structured by the session chair. Luciano Floridi contributes at the end of each section, and is invited to sum up at the end of the discussions. The latter part of the session is devoted to trying to find agreement on the next steps for a programme of research and dissemination to progress the ideas discussed.

***Relevance and significance***

It has been suggested for more than a decade that Floridi's PI is the most appropriate foundation for LIS, that the LIS discipline can be seen as applied PI, and that LIS can contribute to philosophy itself through its study of information and documents. These are strong claims, and have led to controversy, but developments in information society, information ethics, and documentation can be seen as showing the increasing synergy between LIS and PI. Debating these fundamental issues, which affect how our discipline develops in a rapidly changing information environment, should appeal to a wide range of participants.

**Duration**

One 90-minute session.

This needs to be later on the same day as Prof Floridi's keynote.

The conference organisers have provisionally given this panel 14.30-16.00 on 27th March, following the keynote at 13.30-14.30. This would be ideal.

**Special requirements**

None