This week’s exercises will examine different ways in which ‘information’ is used in a variety of contexts. In the lab session, you will be gathering information on particular topics from a variety of sites, and determining the worth and veracity of what you have found. In the tutorial, you will look at information sources concerning individuals, then examine kinds of organisational information systems to which you are exposed on a daily basis.

Lab component:

1. Working in pairs, see what you can find out online about two of the following, along with a topic chosen by your tutor:

   - Your favourite movie star or musician such as their place of birth and first performance (each member of the pair choose one)
   - Coca-cola’s secret formula
   - Recent US, UK and Australian government reports on intelligence failures surrounding the 2003 invasion of Iraq
   - Taxonomies
   - information management in public sector organisations (such as the Victorian Department of Justice)
   - information management in private sector organisations (such as Australian Correctional Management)

2. With each topic, stop when you think some knowledge of value has been obtained.
   a. What criteria have you used to determine when to stop gathering information on a particular topic?
   b. Consolidate, in note form, the key information obtained from what you consider to be the ‘best’ two or three sources.
   c. Some of the information that you have gathered may be contradictory. How do you determine what (if anything) to believe?
   d. Since you believe what you have found has some value, what will you do to preserve it for the future? To whom do you think it might be of value?
Keep some notes on your work, as each pair will report back during the tutorial on their findings and decisions regarding one of these.

**Tutorial component:**

1. The first part of the tutorial will be spent with students introducing themselves – first in pairs, and then to the group as a whole.
   
   In pairs (different pairs from those you formed in the lab),
   
   a) You have 10 minutes to “interview” and find out 5 things about your partner. What information source(s) do you have to rely on? How reliable is this source?
   
   b) If you had a week to complete this activity, how would you go about this? i.e. What information sources could you turn to?

2. Return to the tutorial discussion, and introduce your partner to the group by telling the group your interviewee’s name and two things you have discovered about them. After everyone has been introduced, now might be a good time to raise any questions concerning the administration of the unit.

3. Working in groups of four or five,
   
   a) Pool your knowledge concerning all the information systems currently associated with Monash – both within the organisation itself and outside it. List each system you can think of, including the kind of information that it addresses.
   
   b) What kinds of people have access to each of these systems? In what ways would they need to use the information contained in them? For example, who (apart from yourself) would need access to your unit results, and for what purposes?
   
   c) In what ways (if any) do these information systems need to be interconnected? What information management issues can arise as a consequence of this?
   
   d) What sort of organisational information policies would need to be in place in order to ensure that such information is handled appropriately by all concerned? How do you expect that an organisation such as Monash would act in order to ensure that such policies are complied with? What regulation mechanisms outside Monash would also be relevant here?
   
   e) Report your findings to the rest of the tutorial, and be prepared to comment on the observations made by other groups.

4. Report back to the tutorial on your findings from the lab session.