

What is a system?

a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; an assembly of parts or components existing together in an organised way.

a complex whole: for example, the railway system, the human body

a set of principles or procedures according to which something is done

generally have INPUTS, OUTPUTS, PROCESSES, BOUNDARIES

can be made loosely or tightly coupled up of many sub-systems

outputs from one or more sub-systems can provide inputs to other systems

What is Information?

Signs/
Signals An action, impulse, event, non-event that can be detected, deduced, derived

Data "A description of something that allows it to be recorded, analysed and reorganised."

Inform-
ation Data that has been cleaned, processed, stored, organised, transmitted...

Knowledge ...information that has been analysed and interpreted

... information that has been refined by experience, education, familiarity...

Wisdom the quality of having experience, knowledge & good judgement

σ is an instance of information, understood as semantic content, if and only if: (GDI.1) σ consists of one or more data; (GDI.2) the data in σ are well-formed; (GDI.3) the well-formed data in σ are meaningful.

'data' defined as 'the stuff of which information is made'.

What is Information? (cont)

'well--
formed' means that the data are clustered together correctly, according to the rules (syntax) that govern the chosen system, code or language being analysed.

'meani-
ngful' means that the data must comply with the meanings (semantics) of the chosen system, code or language in question.

