

What's the Use?

Internet
and
Information
Behavior
in
Everyday
Life



Anders Hektor

Internet access and computers in almost every home clearly signal a big change in our "information environment". How can this new situation be studied and understood? This thesis sets a new direction for research on users of IT-based information services in everyday life.

The guiding idea is to look at the Internet as an information system, which is finding its place alongside familiar medias such as the telephone, the TV, books and magazines.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, Anders Hektor has made use of the literature on information behavior. He has worked out a model and applied it to a large material collected from the non-professional lives of ten information users.

The results show that the suggested model offers a viable framework for understanding information behavior in everyday life, with the characteristics that:

- > it considers all forms of information behavior;
- > it makes it possible to study information systems in concert that previously have been studied only separately;
- > it goes deeply into the circumstances of everyday life;
- > it offers means to understand the significance of social relations and communities for individual information behavior.

Anders Hektor is a researcher at the Department of Technology and Social Change at Linköping University. This book is his thesis for the PhD degree.