Call for Papers for Philosophy and Technology’s special issue on Information Architecture and the Design of the Infosphere

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INTRODUCTION
The question of what has to be done to ensure that information can be obtained, organised, and be placed in the right context is a concern that the philosophy of information shares with information architecture; the practice – and associated discipline – of deciding how to arrange the parts of something to be understandable (“What is Information Architecture?” The Information Architecture Institute).

The upshot of this special issue is to investigate the role of design as it applies to the conception of informational artefacts and the way we shape and organise the infosphere. This inquiry originates in a dialogue between information architecture and the philosophy of information initiated during a workshop at the University of Oxford in June 2016. It addresses theoretical questions related to design as an epistemic practice, and the practical challenges that arise from technological changes like the blurring of the boundaries between offline and online, or between the digital and the physical.

The latter is the central concern of pervasive information architecture, a recent development in information architecture that is explicitly concerned with how information is conveyed and/or accessed across many mediums, contexts, and levels of abstraction. Such developments have rendered most of our interactions with information messier than ever before, have radically altered the nature of the infosphere, and raise issues that will only become more urgent with the proliferation of environments where human and non-human ways of understanding and
processing information co-exist.

Addressing these concerns calls for innovative design solutions as well as for deeper conceptual understanding. We need better ways of understanding, conceptualising, and expressing the design challenges and requirements that arise from the abundance of semantically and technologically heterogeneous informational contexts.

With this special issue, we hope to open this discussion to other disciplines, and welcome contributions and input from scholars as well as practitioners interested in information architecture, designing a better infosphere, and more general ethical and philosophical perspectives on design practices and digital technologies.

TOPICS
– Practical and theoretical challenges raised by pervasive and cross-channel Information Architecture.
– Languages and theories of design and design patterns.
– Spatial models and metaphors of the infosphere.
– The concepts of space, place, and place-making.
– Interdisciplinary perspectives on Information Architecture.
– Critical perspectives on the discipline of Information Architecture.
– Innovative connections between the philosophy of information, and the applied sciences of information (LIS, IS, IA).
– Philosophical relevance of design as an epistemic practice.
– Ethical perspectives on responsible design and the care for the infosphere.

TIMETABLE
July 26, 2017: Deadline for expressions of interest
September 26, 2017: Deadline for paper-submission
November 26, 2017: Deadline reviews papers

SUBMISSION DETAILS
To submit a paper for this special issue, authors should go to the journal’s Editorial Manager http://www.editorialmanager.com/phte/
The author (or a corresponding author for each submission in case of co-authored papers) must register into EM.
The author must then select the special article type: ”SI on Information Architecture and the Design of the Infosphere” from the selection provided in the submission process. This is needed in order to assign the submissions to the Guest Editors.
Submissions will then be assessed according to the following procedure:
New Submission => Journal Editorial Office => Guest Editor(s) => Reviewers => Reviewers’ Recommendations => Guest Editor(s)’ Recommendation => Editor-in-Chief’s Final Decision => Author Notification of the Decision.
The process will be reiterated in case of requests for revisions.

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