Abstract

This master's thesis aims to explore the situation of information overload as an information barrier for students. In the theoretical part knowledge obtained from literature on the topic of information overload, related phenomenons and possible strategies used for overcoming information overload is summarised. The research part of the thesis was carried out in the form of in-depth semi-structured interviews with students from the Charles University Faculty of Arts. The research focused on finding out in which situations students experience information overload, if it causes issues in fulfilling their information needs and how they are dealing with it. It was found that students experience information overload in their personal lives and in academic context, as well as in their working environment. In relation to information overload, they experience negative emotions, being delayed and the need to invest more time and energy to fulfil their information needs. They usually don't see it as a barrier that is impossible to overcome, as they have developed strategies for overcoming it. Search strategies, avoiding information, personal information management, reading strategies, seeking help from other people and use of artificial intelligence were mentioned among these strategies.