Indicators of development of the so called “information society”: what is that are to measure?

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Abstract:

The treatment of statistical information about the economic activity in each country is done according to national and international classifications that once compatible allow the elaboration of studies of more general character. Any alteration or modification that, however, occurred in the economic/social context and doesn't correspond to the statistical mesh that is defined, it stays without real existence until that the indicators are altered and the picked up information allows an approach to what it intends to be detect. A good example of this difficulty, in getting data that translate the alterations that occurred, is the work of Castells (The Information Age. 1998), where he need to appeal to typologies with 20 years, as the one of Singelmann (1978), to analyse the statistical elements of each country and try to prove his thesis.

The fact that the subjects related with the technologies of information and communication were, until some few years, an area of recent activity, made almost impossible to detect, through the data that they were picked up, its growth in economic terms, its consequences in social terms.

The fundamental subject is the fact that we are trying to measure a new process with methods and approaches in certain way of the past, taking the risk of just evaluate the point of the iceberg. In the past the real dimension of the terciarization of the economic and social activities only was detected in a very advanced phase of the process, so that such the statistical evaluation of the development of the so called “information society” doesn't happen again it requests new methods and indicators.

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