Dr. Sanda Erdelez is an Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Science at University of Missouri (MU), USA. She is also an Associate Director for Education at MU Informatics Institute and the founding director of MU's Information Experience Laboratory (http://ielab.missouri.edu). As a Fulbright Scholar from Croatia, Dr. Erdelez received a Ph.D. in Information Transfer from Syracuse University. Her research expertise is in the study of human information behavior, especially information search behavior and information needs and uses in an electronic environment. Dr. Erdelez is a pioneer in researching opportunistic discovery of information (ODI) and information encountering (IE). ODI is an emerging area of information behavior research that challenges a traditional understanding of relevance in users' search behavior, which is limited within the context of a purposeful search for information. IE as a specific type of ODI accommodates a "parallel" notion of relevance that is triggered by the discovery of unexpected, novel information during a search for some other information. Dr. Erdelez leads a research group on ODI that is currently developing a scale for IE in online context and also studying IE in the context of online news reading behavior, online shopping, medical image retrieval, and geospatial information. Dr. Erdelez is a co-editor of Theories of Information Behavior and has worked on research projects funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Dell Corporation and Southwest Bell.

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Professor Sanda Erdelez

Lecture: Theories and models of users' information behavior

Many information behavior researchers use theories and models to guide their research and some also aspire to identify and develop new theories and models. Book Theories of Information Behavior (Fisher, Erdelez, McKechnie, 2005) is a classic guide to more than 70 theories and models from library and information science, computer science, humanities and social sciences that have been applied in information behavior research. Using the content of the book as a framework, this lecture will first provide a general terminological introduction to help the audience to identify purposes and conceptual relationships among theories and models and to understand how these influence and emerge from research activities. Examples will be provided of selected theories outside of LIS that have been applied in information behavior research as well as theories and theoretical frameworks that have emerged within information behavior research. The lecture will also include presentation of several prominent models of information
behavior and information seeking (e.g., by Bates, Ellis, Kuhlthau, Krikelas, Wilson). Finally, emerging theories and models of information behavior will be explored, especially in the context of the fast changing online and mobile information environments.

Workshop: Research applications of theories and models of users’ information behavior

There are many theories and models of potential relevance to human information behavior (HIB) researchers. This workshop builds upon the key concepts from the lecture on theories and models of HIB and through several illustrative examples, introduces novice researchers into the indicative and deductive processes of theory/model identification, selection, and application.