

Lyman, UC Berkeley information research pioneer, dies at 66

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(07-08) 16:16 PDT Berkeley, Calif. (AP) --

Peter Lyman, a University of California, Berkeley, professor whose research measured the staggering amounts of information that pervades peoples' everyday lives, has died. He was 66.



Lyman, a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley's School of Information, died July 2 at his Berkeley home after battling brain cancer, the university said.

Lyman's oft-cited 2004 study "How Much Information?," undertaken with fellow UC Berkeley professor Hal Varian, found that the quantity of new information stored on paper, analog and digital media worldwide increased a combined 30 percent each year from 1999 to 2002.

According to the study, printing all the new material saved in 2002 alone would fill half a million libraries the size of the Library of Congress.

Lyman told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 2004 that he hoped the study would help provide perspective on why people feel overwhelmed by the avalanche of information in their lives.

In 2005, Lyman became the director of the Digital Youth Project, a three-year investigation how kids use digital media in their everyday lives, including Internet social networks.

Lyman was born in San Francisco in 1940. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Stanford University in 1962, a master's degree in political science from UC Berkeley in 1963 and a doctorate in political science from Stanford in 1972.

He helped found James Madison College, a residential college at Michigan State University focused on public policy, where he served on the faculty from 1967 to 1987.

He later served as university librarian at USC before assuming the same post at UC Berkeley in 1994. He retired in 2006.

Lyman is survived by his wife, son, daughter, twin grandsons and a sister.

A campus memorial service is planned for early in the fall semester.

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