**Info Dumping**

**Define: Info-Dump**

* **Examples: In an info dump…**
  + Characters ask questions, or explain things that they should already know.
    - If you ever feel like you could reasonably have your characters say “As you all know,” or “In case you forgot”, then you are probably info-dumping.
  + Lengthy voice-overs or narrative pieces where the AUTHOR is telling information
  + If you have your villain over-explain his evil plans just to reveal information, rather than to develop his/her character.
  + The author introduces information without weaving it into the **plot**.

**What might be the advantages of using an info-dump in your story?**

**What might be the disadvantages of using an info-dump in your story?**

***Directions:* Read the passages below and think about how this is an “info-dump” and why it might not be an effective method of relaying information.**

"Where did this come from?" Sachs looked over at the tag. "Two sources: the floor near the table where Geneva was sitting and beside the Dumpster where he was standing when he shot Barry."

Trace in a public place was often useless because there were as many chances for strangers unconnected to the crime to shed material. That similar trace being found in two separate locations where the perp had been suggested strongly that it had been left by him.

"Thank you, Lord," Rhyme muttered, "for thy wisdom in creating deep-tread shoes."

Sachs and Thom glanced at each other.

"Wondering about my good mood?" Rhyme asked, continuing to stare at the screen. "Was that the reason for the sideling look? I can be cheerful sometimes, you know."

"Blue moon," the aide muttered. "Cliche alert, Lon. You catch that one? Now, back to the trace. We know he shed it. What is it? And can it lead us to his den?"

Forensic scientists confront a pyramid-shaped task in analyzing evidence. The initial - and usually easiest - job is to identify a substance (find that a brown stain, for instance, is blood and whether it's human or animal, or that a piece of blood is a bullet fragment). The second task is to classify that sample, that is, put it in a subcategory like determining that the blood is O positive, that the bullet that shed the fragment was a .38). Learning that evidence falls into a particular class may have some value to police and prosecutors if the suspect can be linked to evidence in a similar class - his shirt has a type-O-positive bloodstain on it, he owns a .38 - though that connection isn't conclusive.

The final task, and the ultimate goal of all forensic scientists, is to individuate the evidence - unquestionably link this particular bit of evidence to a single location or human being... etc etc...

* In what ways is this an “info-dump”?

* What changes would you suggest the author make to include the information more smoothly?

Info-dump example #2

“And so the Great Peace of the Gods returned once more. Since then our country, Duthonne, and Meira to the north-east have not warred due the differences in our beliefs.”

One of the children chimed in, “Old Hanne? Do you think the war will ever start again?”

“I hope not, child, for the War of the Gods was one of horrors beyond your imagination. Ah, Eoin...and Saera, too. Please come join us.” They sat on the grass in front of him.

“What was so horrible about the War of the Gods?” asked one of the children.

“They didn’t just use normal weapons. At the beginning of time the Gods sent down gifts into our world. These gifts were supposed to make the world perfect. The Gods hoped that our people would be able to use these gifts to solve our problems. Careus Aura would allow a person to alter time. A man could decrease the amount of time it took for a berry bush to grow. There was Kathes Aura. With this gift one could take control of the nature around them. The Gods were confident that their Solution was the key to the success of this world, but not all had gone to plan. While the Gods’ plan was near to perfect, humankind was, and is, imperfect. If things had been different, if humans were better people, the Solution may have worked. But we were blinded by our hatred for each other. People began to exploit the Auras to their own ends.

“Duthonne and Meira have differing concepts of which Gods are good and which are evil. For example, Maechre, the God of the Passing, is revered by our people as the one who allows our friends and family to pass into the Overworld so that they can rest in peace. The people of Meira, however, fear him as they believe that he is the one responsible for the deaths of those close to them. It is due to humanity’s flaws that the War broke out between the two countries. Humanity’s ‘Blindness’ was our inability to see the good in others. We could not understand that there is no such thing as good and evil, right and wrong. There is only what people think. Yet people still believe today that they must be right. The Church teaches us that the Aundes, the Goddess of Light, is to be held in contempt. It is taught that with her light she blinded us, and in doing so she began the War of the Gods.”

“What about Arlea? What Gods do they look up to over there?” asked Eoin.

“Ah, the island to the north,” said Old Hanne. “It’s quite simple. Arlea didn’t adopt a preference to any of the Gods. It is in fact the only place which retained its traditions fully. Duthonne and Meira have changed so much now that they are but a shadow of what was. The two countries adapted separately from one another until now they are quite different. Come to Duthonne and you will see in each town a hint of culture, different from what you would see in Meira. However, travel to Arlea and you will not only see Arlea as it is, but Duthonne and Meira as they were. It is the nature of humankind to adapt and change. The people of Arlea had been served well by tradition, though, so they continued to live by tradition.

“Now, didn’t you three say you had to be home about now?” Old Hanne directed his question to the other children.

“Oh!” Quickly the three got up and ran off, leaving just Eoin and Saera with Old Hanne.

“Tell us another story, Old Hanne!”

“Saera!”

“Well,” began Old Hanne, “do you know the Tarne River to the east?”

“Of course we do.” This was the river that the two would spar at to pass time.

“I’ve heard tales about a waterfall that can be found if you follow the river south. Do you remember what I said about Aundes, the Goddess of Light?”

“Yes,” said Eoin. “She’s evil because she started the War of the Gods.”

Hanne lowered his voice to a whisper. “Well, that’s what the Church says, but what they say isn’t necessarily true. I told you that Aundes blinded us and because of that we can’t see the good in each other.” Old Hanne raised his voice back to normal. “I don’t believe that. You see, people don’t like to think that some things are their fault, and so they blame them on other people.”

“So, Aundes didn’t blind us? It was just made up as an excuse?” asked Eoin.

“Probably. All I’m saying is that you shouldn’t just believe what the Church says. In our society, the Church has the greatest influence. Too many people today think that just because they says it’s true, it must be. I know much because I’ve always asked myself questions. From my studies of the world I now understand that there isn’t really good or evil. This idea is based only on what people want to believe: that they are right.”

* In what ways is this an “info-dump”?
* What suggestions would you give the author in order to spread out the information?

*The 100* Video Clip <http://www.netflix.com/WiMovie/70283264>

* List the information that you found out about the world of *The 100* here.
* Do you think this clip has an “info-dump”? Why or why not?
* If you were in control of making this show, what would you change about the opening scene? If you wouldn’t change anything, explain why.

*Continuum* Clip <http://www.netflix.com/WiMovie/70266352?trkid=13752289>

* List the information that you found out about the world of *Continuum* here.
* Do you think this clip has an “info-dump”? Why or why not?
* If you were in control of making this show, what would you change about the opening scene? If you wouldn’t change anything, explain why.

*Terra Nova* Excerpt watch: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQFStaOtPCI**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQFStaOtPCI)

* List the information that you found out about the world here.
* Do you think this excerpt has an “info-dump”? Why or why not?
* If you were the editor of this show, what changes would you make to these opening scenes? If you wouldn’t change anything, explain why.

What are some other methods of revealing information about a world?

**Outsider**: someone who, for some logical reason, does not know what is going on, or is not initiated to the world.

* Examples: Maze Runner
* City of Bones Series
* Harry Potter
* Others?

**Insider**: someone who is a part of the world, and so does not need to be initiated to it. Having long, explanatory paragraphs or conversations, thus, would not make sense in this world.

* Examples: The Hunger Games
* Divergent
* Star Trek
* Others?