

Information: Hard and Soft

[Get access >](#)

José María Liberti, Mitchell A Petersen

The Review of Corporate Finance Studies, Volume 8, Issue 1, March 2019, Pages 1–41, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rcfs/cfy009>

Published: 30 November 2018

Abstract

Information, which can arrive in multiple forms, is a fundamental component of all financial transactions and markets. We define hard and soft information and describe the relative advantages of each. Hard information is quantitative, is easy to store, and can be transmitted in impersonal ways. Its information content is independent of its collection. As technology changes, the way we collect, process, and communicate information, it changes the structure of markets, the design of financial intermediaries, and the incentives to use or misuse information. We survey the literature to understand how information type influences the continued evolution of financial markets and institutions.

Received October 25, 2016; editorial decision September 6, 2018 by Editor Efraim Benmelech.

© The Author(s) 2018. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of The Society for Financial Studies. All rights reserved. For permissions, please e-mail: journals.permissions@oup.com

This article is published and distributed under the terms of the Oxford University Press, Standard Journals Publication Model (https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/open_access/funder_policies/chorus/standard_publication_model)

JEL: G20 - General, G21 - Banks; Depository Institutions; Micro Finance Institutions; Mortgages, G30 - General

Issue Section: Articles

Collection: SFS Journals

You do not currently have access to this article.

Sign in

 [Get help with access](#)

Personal account

- Sign in with email/username & password
- Get email alerts
- Save searches
- Purchase content
- Activate your purchase/trial code
- Add your ORCID iD

Sign in >

[Register](#)

Institutional access



Sign in through your institution

[Sign in through your institution](#)

[Sign in with a library card](#)

[Sign in with username/password](#)

[Recommend to your librarian](#)

Institutional account management

[Sign in as administrator](#)

Purchase

[Subscription prices and ordering for this journal](#)

[Purchasing options for books and journals across Oxford Academic](#)

Short-term Access

To purchase short-term access, please sign in to your personal account above.

Don't already have a personal account? [Register](#)

Information: Hard and Soft - 24 Hours access

EUR €39.00

GBP £33.00

USD \$43.00

Rental



This article is also available for rental through DeepDyve.