Term: Information
Quote: A symbol, in its reference to its object, has a triple reference:-
1st, Its direct reference to its object, or the real things which it represents;
2nd, Its reference to its ground through its object, or the common characters of
those objects;
3rd, Its reference to its interpretant through its object, or all the facts known
about its object.
What are thus referred to, so far as they are known, are:
1st, The informed breadth of the symbol;
2nd, The informed depth of the symbol;
3rd, The sum of synthetical propositions in which the symbol is subject or
predicate, or the information concerning the symbol.
By breadth and depth, without an adjective, I shall hereafter mean the informed
breadth and depth.
It is plain that the breadth and depth of a symbol, so far as they are not
essential, measure the information concerning it, that is, the synthetical
propositions of which it is subject or predicate. This follows directly from the
definitions of breadth, depth, and information. Hence it follows:-
1st, That, as long as the information remains constant, the greater the breadth,
the less the depth;
2nd, That every increase of information is accompanied by an increase in depth
or breadth, independent of the other quantity;
3rd, That, when there is no information, there is either no depth or no breadth,
and conversely.
These are the true and obvious relations of breadth and depth. They will be
naturally suggested if we term the information the area, and write-
Breadth X Depth = Area.

of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 7, 416-432.

References: W 2:82-83

Date of 1867
Quote:
URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-upon-logical-comprehension-and-extension