



The Internet: Social Effects



History of Information 103
Geoff Nunberg

April 24, 2012



Itinerary, 4/24

The Internet and "virtual community"

Social life in a virtual world

The Internet as a political forum

Is the Internet a place?



The Internet: Social Consequences

Does the internet build communities or fragment them?



The Internet: Social Consequences

Does the internet build communities or fragment them?

Yes.



Cairncross: Everything is different

1. **Death of distance**
2. Fate of Location
3. **Improved Connections**
4. Increased Mobility
5. More Customized Networks
6. Deluge of Information
7. Increased Value of Brand
8. More Minnows, more Giants
9. More Competition
10. Increased Value of Niches
11. **Communities of Practices**
12. Loose-Knit Corporation Culture
13. **Openness**
14. Manufacturers as Service Providers
15. Inversion of Home and Office
16. Proliferation of Ideas
17. Decline of National Authority
18. **Loss of Privacy**
19. Global Premium for Skills
20. Rebirth of Cities
21. Rise of English
22. **Communities of Culture**
23. A New Trust
24. People as Scarce Resource
25. **Global Peace**



Social Life in a Virtual World



Predictions that Internet/Web will decentralize authority

permit ground-up social & political organization

Create "virtual communities"

Cf the "virtual corporation," "smart mobs," moveon.org, etc., which are said to facilitate direct democracy



What's Real and What is Not

When “virtual” = real...

Real

banking
journal
textbook

Not

machine
keyboard
pets
reality
house tour?

??

museum
library
community



VIRTUAL  NEW YORK CITY

VIRTUAL
New Zealand

mva
Microsoft Virtual Academy



The Rise of “Virtual Communities,” I

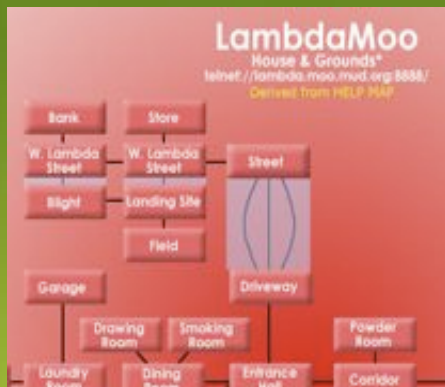


1978-79: Early MUDS (Multi-User Dungeons) enable players of text-adventure games to interact & team up.

1979 > Early BBS's (Bulletin Board services) allow users to connect via modem to a common server & post messages.

1980: USENET → “poor man’s ARPANET” to allow users to exchange email & software.

1990: First MOOs [“MUD Object Oriented”] created at Xerox Palo Alto Research center.





The birth of spam



Spam is the shadow history, the negative space, of the concept of community online” Finn Brunton

1971: sysadmin “abuses” MIT time-sharing system w/ “to all” msg:
THERE IS NO WAY TO PEACE. PEACE IS THE WAY.”

5/1/1978: “Proto-Spam” message sent to 593 addresses on ARPAnet,

DIGITAL WILL BE GIVING A PRODUCT PRESENTATION OF THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE DECSYSTEM-20 FAMILY

Early 1980’s: Users of BBS and MUDs take to repeating “spam” & bits of Monty Python routine to annoy other users or drive newbies out of the discussion.

1994: “Green Card spam” sent by Canter & Siegel law firm as bulk Usenet posting.

By mid-1990’s, AOL is selling mailing list of 37m for \$50k

Responses: harassment & vigilanteism, parliamentarianism, authoritarianism,



The Rise of “Virtual Communities,” II



1985: Stewart Brand & Larry Brilliant found the BBS The Well (Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link), which becomes an influential “virtual community” providing email, forums, etc.

WELL participants go on to found Craigslist, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Salon.com, etc.

1986: Matchmaker dating service begun as text-based BBS, adding to groups like soc.singles, etc. By 2003, US Web-based online dating services draw 40m annual visitors.

1995 Craig Newmark founds Craigslist in San Francisco for posting of local events; by 2000, expanded to 9 cities.



The Beginnings of Social Networking Sites

1997: Slashdot created to provide user-generated "News for nerds." Becomes wildly popular antecedent of blogs.

1997 Sixdegrees.com founded, social networking site that achieved 1m members and anticipated Friendster, MySpace, LinkedIn & Facebook etc.



Political organization online

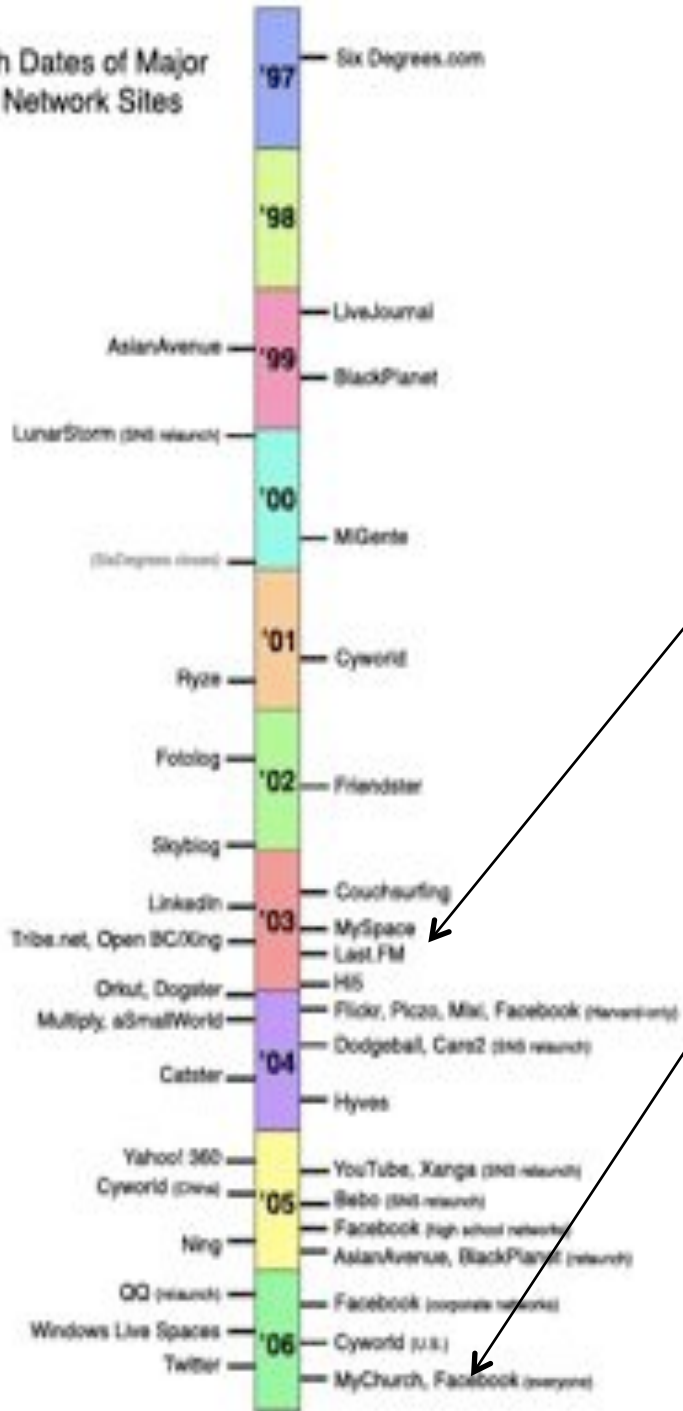


1998 Moveon.org founded to militate for moving past Clinton impeachment hearings. In 2003, becomes important channel for opposition to Iraq war, major source of funding for antiwar candidates.

2002 Meetup.com founded to facilitate offline meeting and networking of interest groups. During buildup to campaign, it becomes an important source of grassroots political organization for Howard Dean campaign, later for Kerry & Edwards.

The Triumph of Social Networks

Launch Dates of Major Social Network Sites



2003: myspace founded, rapidly becomes largest soc. networking site. Complaints about stalking, exploitation, spam, etc. lead some schools to block site.

2003: Second Life launched by Linden Labs.

2004: Facebook launched by Mark Zuckerberg.

2008: Helped by Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, Obama campaign's use of new media ("MyBo") enables it to raise \$200m by end of primary season and recruit numerous volunteers.





The complications of “community”



“Community” usually implies rich interaction around common interests

Online interaction creates or strengthens groups organized around significant common interests; e.g., sexual orientation, political activism, diseases...

But "community" is also used for almost any kind of group formed online... so long as it's judged positive

 **Community**



Welcome | [Campbell's Kitchen](#) | [Nutrition & Wellness](#) | [Labels for Education](#) | [Our Company](#)



Varieties of Online Community

Relation of online media to social groups

Supports Amplifies /extends Transforms Creates





Varieties of Online Community

high-school
alums
Book History
list
MeetUp
leukemia dl

Relation of online media to social groups

Supports Amplifies /extends Transforms Creates





Reinforcing Social Divisions



Stratification of social space

What distinguishes adoption of MySpace and Facebook among American teens is not clearly about race or class, ... The division can be seen through the lens of taste and aesthetics, two value-laden elements that are deeply entwined with race and class. It can also be seen through the network structures of teen friendship, which are also directly connected to race and class. And it can be seen through the language that teens – and adults – use to describe these sites....

danah boyd



Social wars



Cheesy or creative; classy or boring?

'MySpace is for the riff-raff and Facebook is for the landed gentry.'

'MySpace just seems like the other side of the tracks.'



Do social media always reproduce offline categories?



Assignment

boyd writes: In some senses, the division in the perception and use of MySpace and Facebook seems obvious given that we know that online environments are a reflection of everyday life. Yet, the fact that such statements are controversial highlights a widespread techno-utopian belief that the internet will once and for all eradicate inequality and social divisions.

In a different context, Zadie Smith writes: Shouldn't we struggle against Facebook? Everything in it is reduced to the size of its founder. Blue, because it turns out Zuckerberg is red-green color-blind. "Blue is the richest color for me—I can see all of blue." Poking, because that's what shy boys do to girls they are scared to talk to. Preoccupied with personal trivia, because Mark Zuckerberg thinks the exchange of personal trivia is what "friendship" is. A Mark Zuckerberg Production indeed! We were going to live online. It was going to be extraordinary. Yet what kind of living is this? Step back from your Facebook Wall for a moment: Doesn't it, suddenly, look a little ridiculous? Your life in this format?

On the whole, would you say that your social networking experience is more like an extension of your everyday life, as boyd suggests, or that it's a bleached or distorted version of it?



Cassandra R.

I am a Facebook user and a retired Myspace user, with a hint of Livejournal and random message boards thrown into the past. After reading Boyd's article, I thought more about the people who I am friends with in real life and the kinds of websites that we use. All of my friends had a Myspace when it first came out, and slowly everyone moved to Facebook, and some of us have Google+ pages, but those are essentially inactive. We also all tend to use websites like Reddit, varying in participation from very active to just checking the front page every once in a while. After considering that points that Boyd made, I'm not sure I'm in a position to evaluate a racial divide online as it relates to my usage. My friends in real life are also my friends online, so the diversity in my friends seeps in to my online life as well. ...I truly see my Facebook as an extension of myself in the sense that I am only friends with people who I am actually friends with in real life.



Diana Perez

The social networking experience of many reflects most predominantly the stage they are in within their lifecycle. ...whether they're students/single and dependent, independent/single and working, married and working, children and housing, or empty nested and retired, etc. [That] is the driver that dictates how you use your social networking.

In high school I only used Myspace. My high school years were from 2003-2007 and all my classmates and friends were on Myspace and it reflected my interests and was the quickest avenue to connect to my friends at that age. As I entered college I was introduced to Facebook. I did not particularly enjoy it and did not find much use for it at the beginning, which was fall 2007. However as my college life, age, and lifestyle changed and grew, my needs and networking changed as well...The connections, friends, events, and information that were more relevant to me at this time were all found on Facebook because it was a site predominately used to facilitate campus connections. This was the reason for my switch



Sean D.

A brief glance at my Facebook wall is enough for me to realize this is not a good representation of who I am. "Priscilla Huang" linked to a song on YouTube that I don't really like and wrote "can we be friends?" above the link -- strange, I know. The second post is a picture I'm tagged in. Not of me but of one of my friends back home--in an uneventful suburb outside of Anaheim--looking kind of strange in a photo and the words "We all have... that one friend..." written on it. Twenty-some of my friends from back home are tagged on it and it has 40 likes and 10 comments....I really hope this isn't a representation of my everyday life, because if it is I need to re-evaluate my life.

Zuckerberg's framework does not control...how people view and subsequently use the service... and this is when the online social networking experience starts to resemble the social divisions and perceptions we hold in everyday life. For example, someone in Berkeley who utters the phrase, "I don't use Facebook," might subsequently be categorized as somewhat more of an intellectual or a free thinker; someone on LinkedIn as a professional, a networker, or a "suit"; someone on Google+ as a loner or a hipster; and someone on Reddit as an Engineer or a socially-awkward-cat-worshipper.



Michael B.

Well, this question is quite impossible to answer. Is my social networking life and extension or a distortion of my “everyday” life? I have no idea.

In reality, it's both and the context of each social network changes. “Everyday” life is weird, because everyday life doesn't always play out to who I really am - insecurities cause me to change how I act in person sometimes, and online, we I'm free to be who I really am. My twitter feed is far nerdier than I am in real life most of the time, yet I don't interact with friends through twitter. And in the right group of friends, I'm just as nerdy, perhaps more so. The same applies to Flickr and the ways I discuss photography and art. Facebook is interesting because of the volume, I am, I think, much more likely to post differently than I might in person - to be “normal.”



Patrick W.

...We all have different ways we interact with social media, Personally, I like to think of myself separate from an all or nothing approach using sites like facebook, but in reality it seems that just my use of facebook is pushing me in a direction that would have all of my information online linked to my account.

When sites like myspace and facebook started there still was an ability to post just what you wanted. But as more and more websites ask you to link your account with their website more and more of the people in your groups are learning your interests, hobbies, favorite places to eat and place of residence. This creates a shift of learning about people directly, to learning “personal trivia” about the person in question takes away from getting to know the person to knowing facts about the person.



The internet: Piazza or Souk?





The Internet as a Public Space

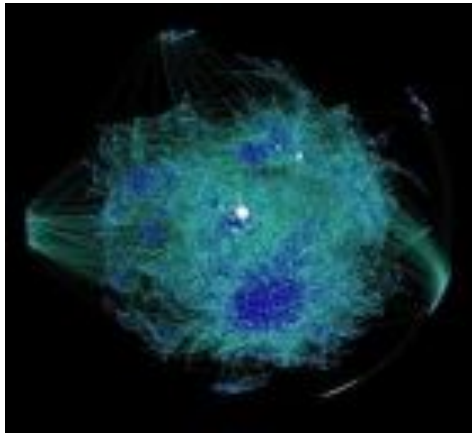
"The new electronic independence recreates the world in the image of a global village." Marshall McLuhan

"The power of elites to determine what [is] news via a tightly controlled dissemination system [has been] shattered. The ability and authority to distribute text are now truly democratized" Hugh Hewitt





Is the Internet a Community?



Cf. James F. Moore (Berkman Center), on "the global consciousness of the second superpower," March 2003:

The Internet and other interactive media continue to penetrate more and more deeply all world society... The collective power of texting, blogging, instant messaging, and email across millions of actors cannot be overestimated. Like a mind constituted of millions of inter-networked neurons, the social movement is capable of astonishingly rapid and sometimes subtle community consciousness and action... the emergent democracy of the second superpower is alive with touching and being touched by each other, as the community works to create wisdom and to take action....



Is the Internet a Community?

Social implications of 'cyberspace', 'the infosphere' etc.

A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace

Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone..... You have no sovereignty where we gather.

...I declare the global social space we are building to be naturally independent of the tyrannies you seek to impose on us. ...

...You have not engaged in our great and gathering conversation, nor did you create the wealth of our marketplaces. You do not know our culture, our ethics, or the unwritten codes that already provide our society more order than could be obtained by any of your impositions.

John Perry Barlow, Electronic Frontier Foundation, 1996





Claims about online political discourse

The internet

Broadens access to information

Broadens the opportunity to speak.

Increases the number of information sources, bypassing media "gatekeepers" or official censors.

Offers information about a wider range of topics, and more information and opinion on any given topic.

Provides more reliable ways of checking or interpreting information, and gives citizens more opportunity to verify information



Claims about online political discourse

The internet

Restricts the exchange of information and opinion to a more closed, like-minded group (silo effect)

Exposes people to more information that is misleading, inaccurate, extreme, inflammatory, etc.;

Eliminates the guidance that the traditional media provided.

Widens the divisions between the informed and ill-informed sectors of the public.



Polarization of Political Discourse



Polarization and the "Siloing" of Political Discourse



Online discourse facilitates "siloing" of political discourse...

But siloing has independent offline roots

Polarization of political language on the Internet mirrors polarization of elite/activist views and the increasing importance of elective associations (geographical, occupational)

Number of Americans living in landslide counties:

1976: 26%

2008: 48%





Ruptured Discourses

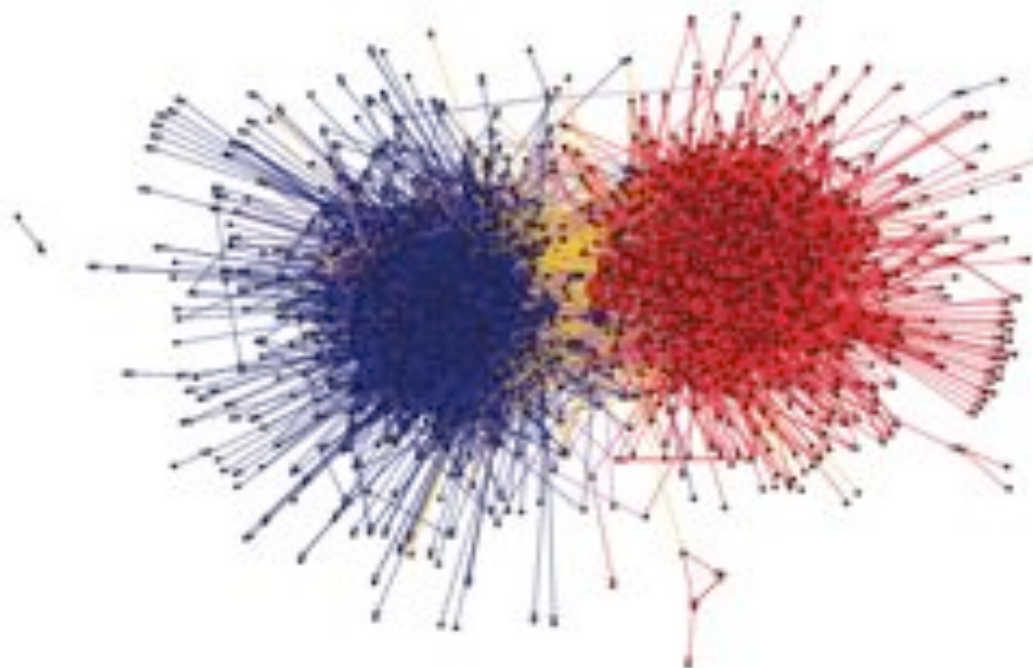


Figure 1: Community structure of political blogs (expanded set), shown using utilizing a GEM layout [11] in the GUESS[3] visualization and analysis tool. The colors reflect political orientation, red for conservative, and blue for liberal. Orange links go from liberal to conservative, and purple ones from conservative to liberal. The size of each blog reflects the number of other blogs that link to it.

Lada Adamic & Nathalie Glance, 2005, "Divided They Blog"



traffic is also polarized



Figure 4.4: This figure maps traffic among the top 50 political Websites, as of May 2006. Liberal- or Democratic-leaning sites are in blue; conservative- or Republican-leaning sites are in red. Self-declared neutral or nonpartisan sites are in grey.



Ruptured Discourses

Table 3.2
Links to Allies and Adversaries, 2006

<i>Political orientation</i>	<i>Links to opposition</i>	<i>No links to opposition</i>	<i>Links to like-minded sites</i>	<i>No links to like-minded sites</i>	<i>Total sites</i>
Republican	3	7	7	3	10
Democrats	5	5	5	5	10
Conservative	3	13	16	0	14
Liberal	6	8	13	1	14
All	17	32	41	9	50

From Cass Sunstein, Republic.com 2.0



Polarization by gender?

Rank	Blog	Male readership (%)
1.	<i>DailyKos.com</i>	47%
2.	Instapundit	59%
3.	<i>Eschaton (Atrios)</i>	52%
4.	Michelle Malkin	57%
5.	<i>Crooks and liars</i>	32%
6.	Little Green Footballs	89%
7.	Powerline	74%
8.	RedState.org	68%
9.	<i>Wonkette</i>	46%
10.	Andrew Sullivan	53%
11.	<i>Kevin Drum</i>	55%
12.	Hugh Hewitt	80%

Sites with highest pct of male readers
tend to be conservative



Participation in online political discourse



Participation in online political discourse

Does the net level the informational playing field?

Initially, those with access \tend to be younger, college-educated, male, white...

Curves of access are flattening...

But among those w/access, older users are more likely to be daily users...

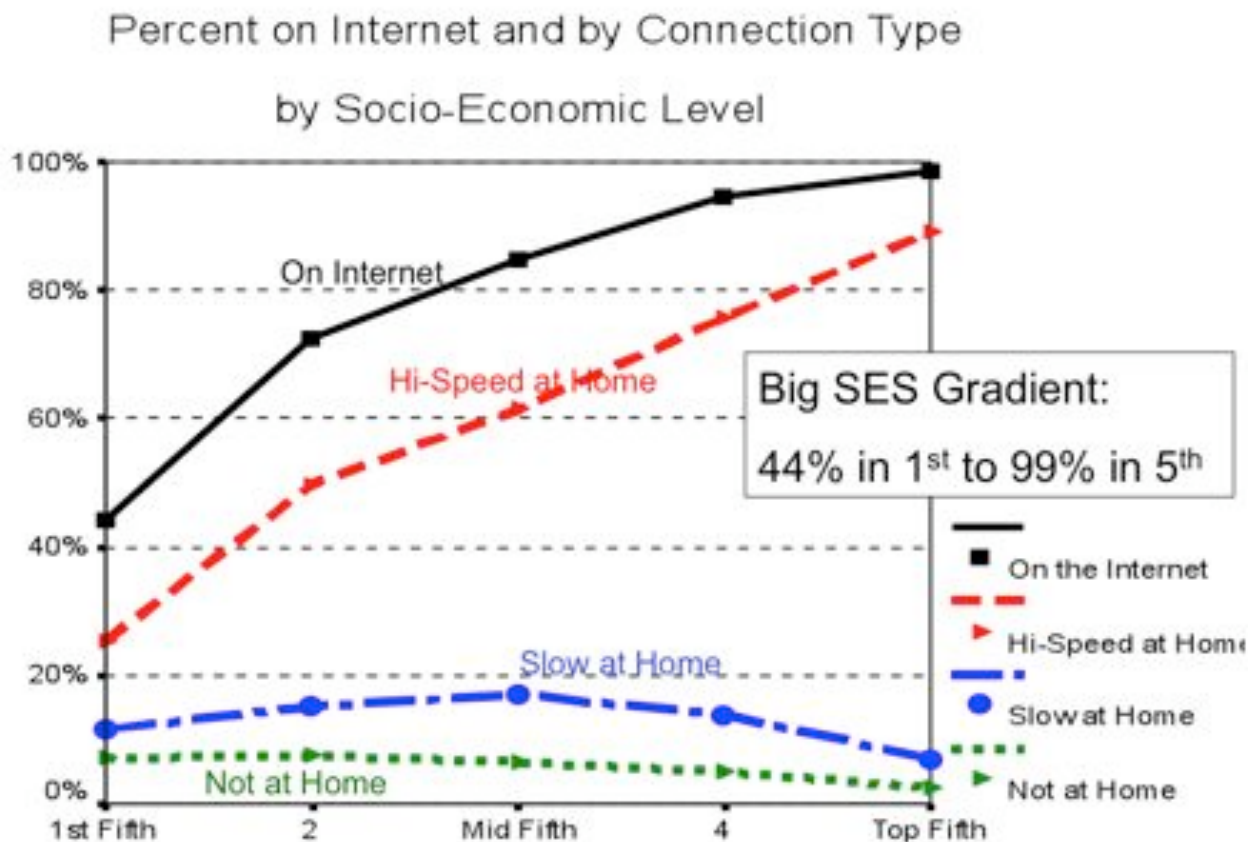
	Millennials Ages 18-33	Gen X Ages 34-45	Younger Boomers Ages 46-55	Older Boomers Ages 56-64	Silent Gen. Ages 65-73	G.I. Gen. Age 74+	All online adults Age 18+
% who go online	95	86	81	76	58	30	79

)
a.

But how much does access/daily use predict political engagement?



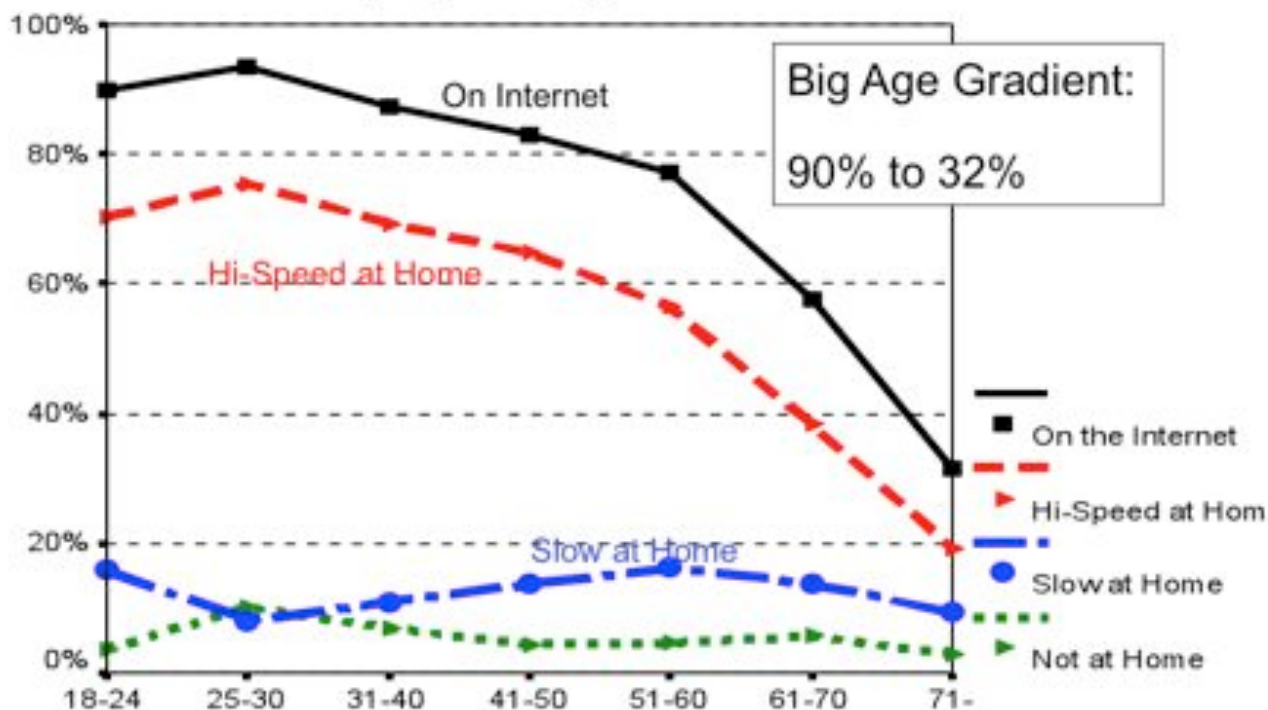
Political Participation Online





Reinforcing Social Divisions

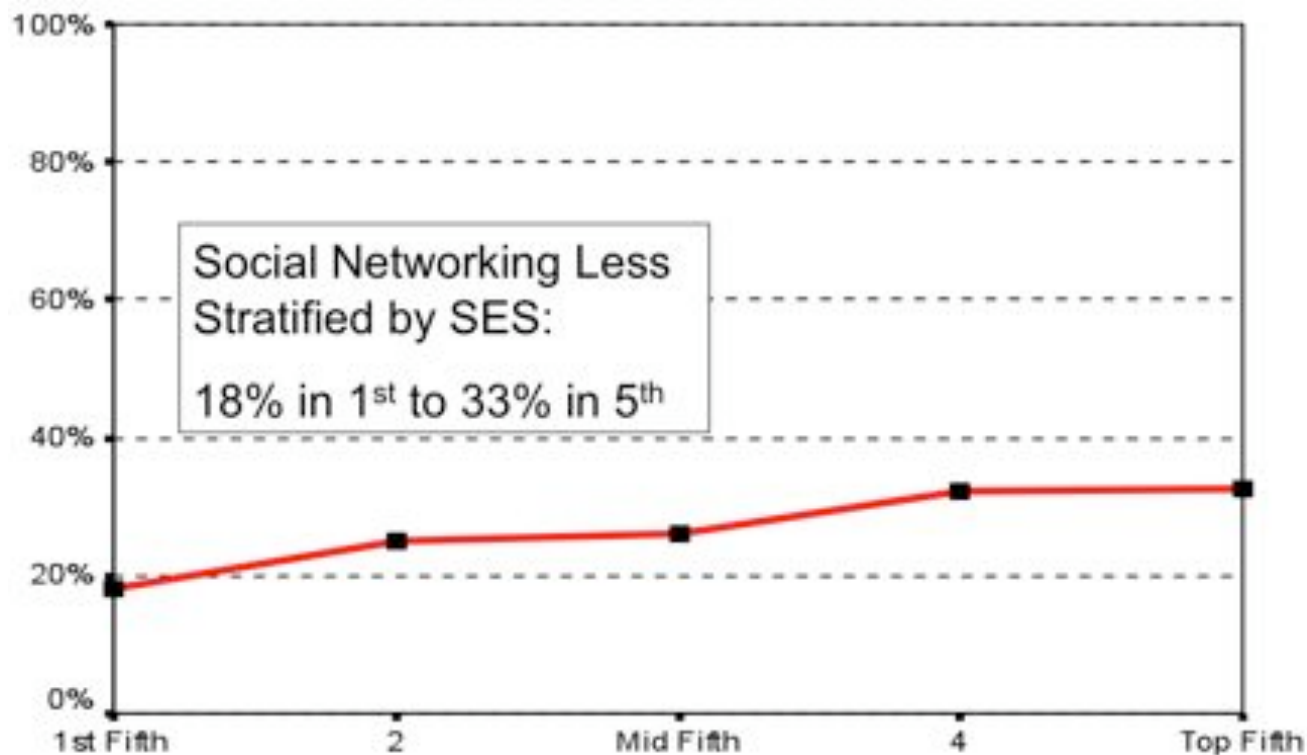
Percent on Internet and by Connection Type
by Age Categories





Political Participation Online

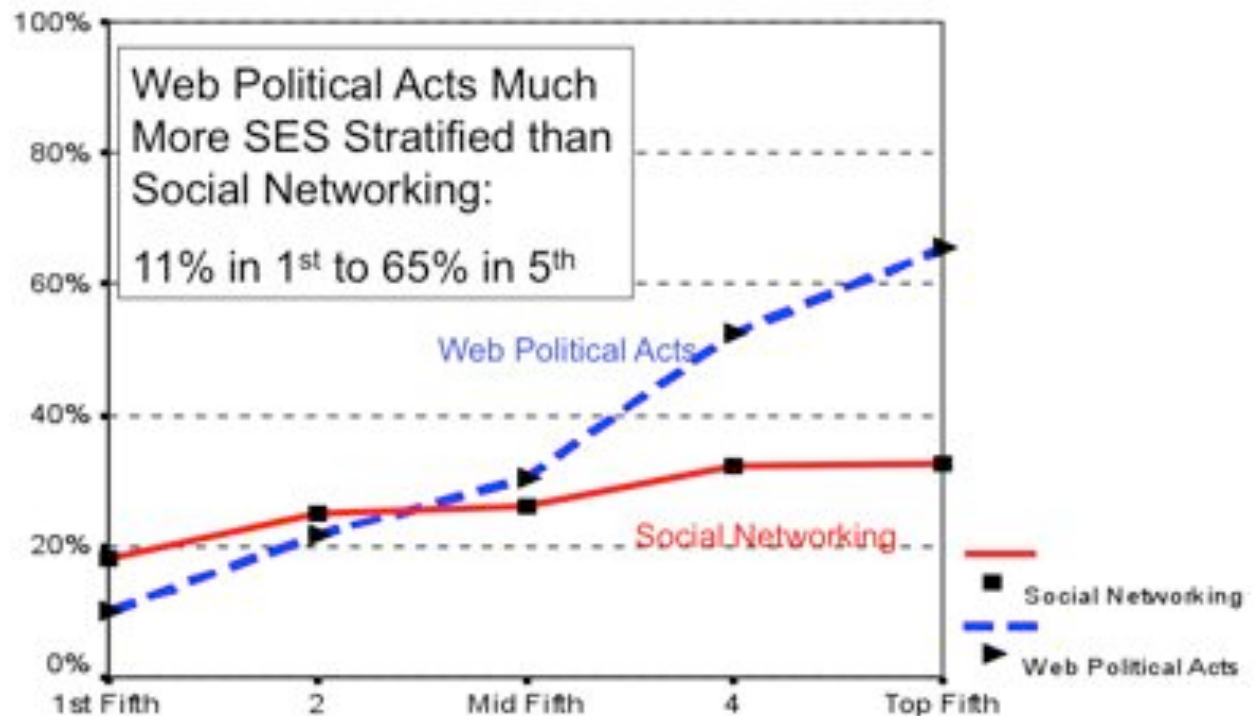
Percent Using Social Networking Sites
by Socio-Economic Level





Political Participation Online

Percent Web Political Acts and Social Networking
by Socio-Economic Level

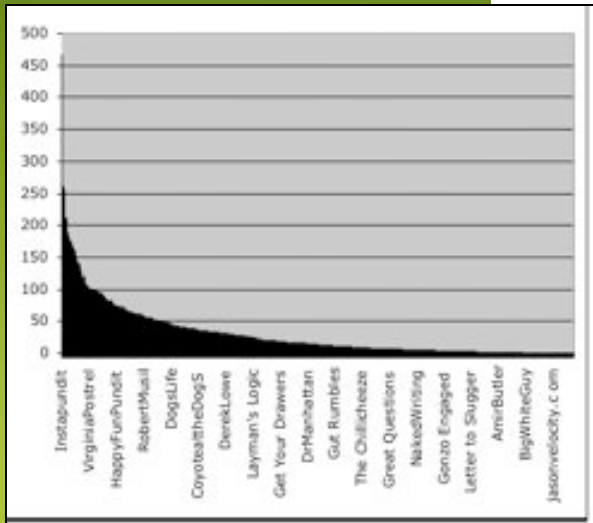




Political Participation Online

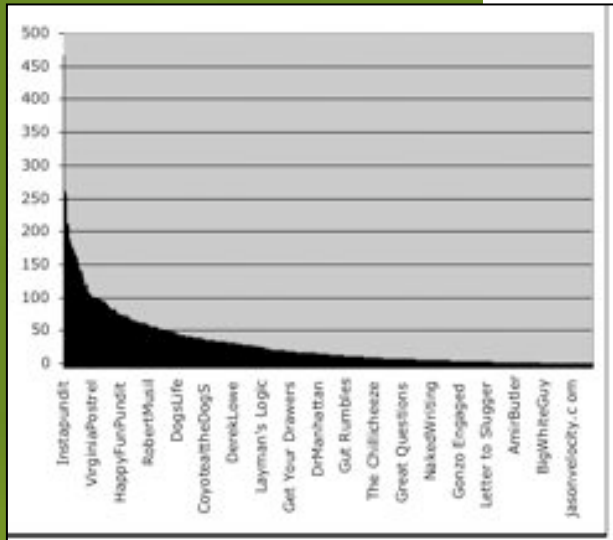
"Winner take all" effects: Zipf's Law distributions
(note: Most influential bloggers are journalists etc.)

Internet doesn't level political participation or access to political information within society...





Political Participation Online



"Winner take all" effects: Zipf's Law distributions
(note: Most influential bloggers are journalists etc.)

Internet doesn't level political participation or
access to political information within society...

But it may broaden participation & information
flow among political classes...

And does facilitate lateral connections &
organization



Virtual Pollution



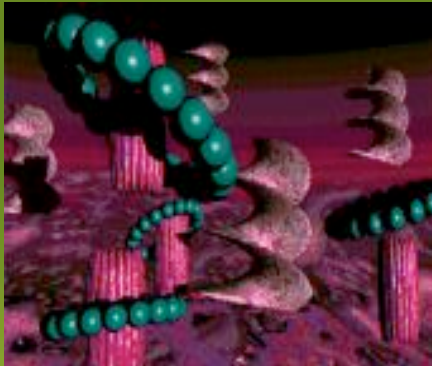
Spatial Models of Electronic Discourse: "Cyberspace"



The New Jerusalem, ca. 1992

Cyberspace: A world in which the global traffic of knowledge, secrets, measurements, indicators, and alter-human agency takes on form: sights, sounds, presences never seen on the surface of the earth blossoming in a vast electronic night. . . . From vast databases that constitute the culture's deposited wealth, every document is available, every recording is playable, and every picture is viewable. The realm of pure information, filling like a lake.

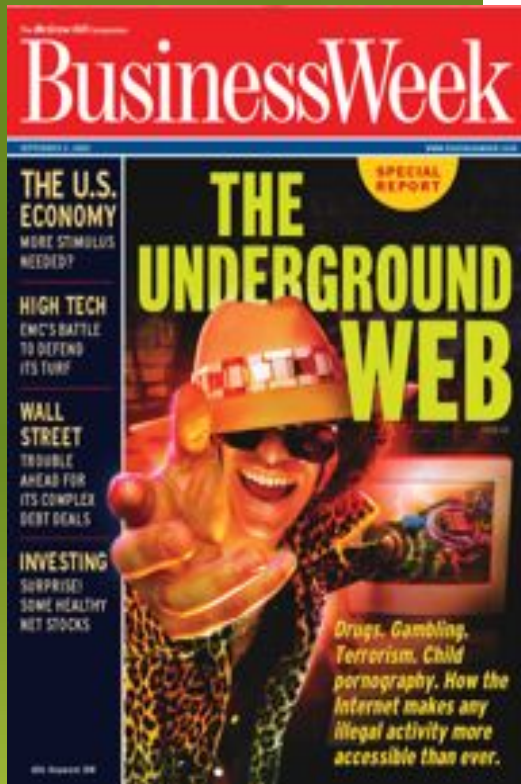
— Michael Benedikt, Introduction to Cyberspace, MIT Press, 1991



Visualizations of cyberspace



Cyberspace: The Morning After



The virtual Bowery

[The Internet is] a place where crime is rampant and every twisted urge can be satisfied. Thousands of virtual streets are lined with casinos, porn shops, and drug dealers. Scam artists and terrorists skulk behind seemingly lawful Web sites. And cops wander through once in a while, mostly looking lost. It's the Strip in Las Vegas, the Red Light district in Amsterdam, and New York's Times Square at its worst, all rolled into one -- and all easily accessible from your living room couch.

"The Underground Web," *Business Week*, 9/2/02



Varieties of "Rotten Information"

Problems of authenticity: fakes, hoaxes, forgeries, plagiarism, etc.

Problems of quality: reliability and "authoritativeness"

Problems of "pollution": pornography, violence, racism & hate speech, predators, incivility, etc.

Mary Douglas: "Dirt is matter out of place... Dirt then, is never a unique, isolated event. Where there is dirt there is a system. Dirt is the by-product of a systematic ordering and classification of matter, in so far as ordering involves rejecting inappropriate elements."

How to tell pollution from the merely "unacceptable"?



A Racist Hoax

THE FRANKLIN PROPHECY

Recorded by Charles Coteworth Pinckney

Delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787

"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews.

"In whatever country Jews have settled in any great number, they have lowered its moral tone; depreciated its commercial integrity; have segregated themselves and have not been assimilated; have sneered at and tried to undermine the Christian religion upon which that nation is founded....

. If you do not exclude them from these United States, in their Constitution, in less than 200 years they will have swarmed here in such great numbers that they will dominate and devour the land and change our form of government...



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"I cannot find a single original source that gives the slightest justification for believing that the Prophecy is anything more than a barefaced forgery. Not a word have I discovered in Franklin's letters and papers expressing any such sentiments against the Jews as are ascribed to him by the Nazis — American and German." Charles Beard, *NY Times*, March 10, 1937.



Pervasiveness of Hate Speech

Google

Web [Show options...](#) Results 1 - 100 of about 1,800 for "protect this young nation from an insidious influence"

[The JEWS who Run Clinton and the USA](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ...
[www.56believers.org.au/cfile.htm](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[JewishPost.com - The Franklin Prophecy: An Anti-Semitic Hoax Gets ...](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and penetration. That menace, gentlemen, is the ...
[www.jewishpost.com/...the-franklin-prophecy-an-anti-semitic-hoax-gets-new-life-on-the-internet.html](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[US Founding Fathers' Statements Concerning the Jews](#)
... he declared: I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. ...
[www.scribd.com/...US-Founding-Fathers-Statements-Concerning-the-Jews](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[The Jews - 100 Facts](#)
Fact #72 (11) — Benjamin Franklin: I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and ...
[www.scribd.com/doc/28107776/The-Jews-100-Facts](#) - [Cached](#)

[Show more results from www.scribd.com](#)

[What were 3 factors that led to the holocaust? - Yahoo! Answers](#)
Dec 15, 2009 ... I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. ...
[answers.yahoo.com](#) · Arts & Humanities · History · [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Americans Wake Up: Zionists & Israel ruling America. | Facebook](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and penetration. That menace, gentlemen, is the ...
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10724185862](#) - [Cached](#)

[The Goldman Probe Is a Smokescreen | Republic Broadcasting Network](#)
... agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews. ...
[republicbroadcasting.org/?p=8195](#) - [Cached](#)

[Juderhass Quotes](#)
I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ...
[www.juderhass.com/index.html](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)



Pervasiveness of Hate Speech

The screenshot shows a Google search for "protect this young nation". The search results include:

- Web # Show options...**
- The JEWS who Run Clinton and the USA**
"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ..."
www.5b16believers.org.au/cfile1.htm - **Cached** - **Similar**
- JewishPost.com - The Franklin Prophecy**
"I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. That menace, gentlemen, is the ..."
www.jewishpost.com/~the-franklin-prophecy-an-internet.html - **Cached** - **Similar**
- US Founding Fathers' Statements Concerning the Jews**
... he declared: "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ..."
www.scribd.com/~US-Founding-Fathers-Statements-Concerning-the-Jews - **Cached** - **Similar**
- The Jews - 100 Facts**
Fact #72 (11) — Benjamin Franklin: "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ..."
www.scribd.com/doc/29107776/The-Jews-100-Facts - **Cached** - **Similar**
- Show more results from www.scribd.com**
- What were 3 factors that led to the holocaust? - Yahoo! Answers**
Dec 15, 2009 ... "I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ..."
answers.yahoo.com · Arts & Humanities · History · **Cached**
- Americans Wake Up: Zionists & Israel ruling America**
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- Judenbass Quotes**
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www.judenbass.com/resources.html - **Cached** - **Similar**

The Wikipedia article titled "The Franklin Prophecy" is also visible, with the text: "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 'The Franklin Prophecy', sometimes called 'The Franklin Forgery', is an antisemitic speech falsely attributed to Benjamin Franklin, warning..."

The ADL (Anti-Defamation League) article titled "The Franklin 'Prophecy' Modern Anti-Semitic Myth Making" is also visible, with the text: "Introduction. This article, which thoroughly documents the history of the truth as the Franklin 'Prophecy', appeared almost forty-five years 1954 issue of Facts, a publication of the Anti-Defamation League. The authors wrote 'This 20-year-old anti-Semitic hoax is circulating almost sixty-five years after it was manufactured, the 'Prophecy' a staple of anti-Semitic propaganda. It can be found on a number of websites maintained by haters and hate-groups. The article is, therefore..."



An Awkward Search Result

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Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by a right-wing orthodox Jew. Abraham Hecht has been quoted as citing Jewish scripture to justify the killing. ...
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We're disturbed about these results as well. Please read o

If you recently used Google to search for the word "Jew," you may have seen results that were very disturbing. We assure you that the views expressed by the sites in your results are not in any way endorsed by Google. A site's ranking in Google's search results relies heavily on computer algorithms using thousands of factors to calculate a page's relevance to a given query. Sometimes subtleties of language cause anomalies to appear that cannot be predicted. ...



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What would you tell Google to do?



Pervasiveness of racialism

Links to other racist sites:

Fig. 1 (3 views). A Dinaricized German from Heidelberg; although his face shows in exaggerated degree all of the criteria of Dinaricization, the great size of his cranial vault is unusual for Dinarics and implies the presence of unreduced Upper Palaeolithic factors. This individual might be called a Noric, since the Mediterranean element contained is unquestionably Nordic, and probably Nordic of the Corded variety.



Fig. 2 (3 views). A Noric from Berlin; the shallow nasion depression, and the great height and salience of the nose are especially noticeable here. Norics are extremely common in eastern Germany.



Fig. 3 (3 views). A Noric Pole from Galicia western Poles.



Linking singles of European descent around the world... **EURODATELINK**

Sign Up Now It's FREE!

Search Login

Gender
Not Specified

Country
Not specified

Nickname
Password

GO GO

ica, Europe and around [sign up now!](#)

Paul Fromm Stormfront.org
Coming to You Every Day
12:00 AM EST

*"When you silence the Men of the Word,
you will have to deal with the Men of the Sword."*

ONLY ON STORMFRONT RADIO

Stormfront Broadcast Radio - Monday, September 10

Stormfront.org Radio When radio call-ins activated: (214)-329-WPWW or Skype

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Click Below to Hear the Stream Live:
[Listen Live](#) **Live NOW: Paul Fromm on the air "For Our People" from Port**

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5-7am - Downunder Radio-	8-10pm - Political Cesspool
-7-9pm in E. Australia	12am - Paul Fromm
10pm - Old Timey Arrangements	1am - Jamie Kelso
11pm - Lycia's Celtic	



Why is racist speech a problem?

How concerned should we be about racist speech?

Is there more racist speech than before?...

Or is it just more visible – like bad spelling?



The Menace of Porn

NEW YORK POST

Last Updated: Wed., Apr. 27, 2011, 07:45pm

City libraries say 'checking out' porn protected by First Amendment

By DOUGLAS MONTERO and BOB FREDERICKS

Last Updated: 9:03 AM, April 25, 2011

Posted: 1:54 AM, April 25, 2011

Like 2,583 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Tweet 203

More Print

Shakespeare's plays, Einstein's theories -- and porn queen Jenna Jameson's steamy on-screen sexcapades.

New Yorkers can take their pick at the city's public libraries, thanks to a policy that gives a the most uncensored access to extreme, hard-core internet smut this side of the old Time Square.

The statement is a violation of the First Amendment of the First

"What they're doing is publicly funding an appetite for the most debased fare available," said Catholic League President Bill Donohue. "It's not like a Playboy centerfold anymore -- it's far worse."

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Internet porn a First Amendment right at Chicago libraries

libraries

Porn on L.A. Library Public Terminals Gets Serious Debate in City Hall

By Dennis Romero, Wed., Apr. 13 2011 @ 7:03AM

Categories: libraries

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Ah, L.A. City Hall, always tackling the Big Issue. Like [cat declawing](#) and an [Arizona business boycott](#) that has no teeth.

And now the accidental, over-the-shoulder viewing of internet porn at public libraries is a matter of serious inquiry among city officials.

Yes, this was actually a major topic of discussion at the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee meeting this week.

And what was done about it?

Why nothing, of course.



sterrick_somero

Not an L.A. library branch (but could be)



The profusion of pornography



Whereas pornography was once furtively glimpsed at dimly lighted newsstands or seedy adult theaters, today it is everywhere. It pours in over the Internet, sometimes uninvited, sometimes via eagerly forwarded links...

...Whereas children used to supplement sex education by tearing through *National Geographic* in search of naked aboriginals ... today many are confronted by pornographic images on a daily basis. In a 2001 poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 70% of 15-to 17-year-olds said they had accidentally come across pornography online.

Time, January 19, 2004



Dimensions(?) of the Problem

The Washington Times
Originally published 04:45 a.m., September 29, 2009, updated 07:25 a.m., September 29, 2009
EXCLUSIVE: Porn surfing rampant at U.S. science foundation
Jim McElhatton



Washington Takes Break From Porn Surfing to Bailout Wall Street

by Ann Coulter
04/29/2010

Democrats have decided that in order to prevent Wall Street from starting meltdowns, wrecking the economy and leaving the American taxpayer in a lurch, we need to give more oversight authority to the same government employees who are busy surfing Internet porn as private investors frantically tried to warn

GOP ramps up attacks on SEC over porn surfing

AP Associated Press

Buzz up! 281 votes | Send | Share | Print



By DANIEL WAGNER, AP Business Writer - Fri Apr 23, 12:14 pm ET

WASHINGTON - Republicans are stepping up their criticism of the Securities and Exchange Commission following reports that senior agency staffers spent hours surfing pornographic websites on government-issued computers while they were supposed to be policing the nation's financial system.

"More than 4 million Web sites worldwide show images of children being sexually exploited, said the U.N. investigator on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography... "

It is estimated that 100,000 sites contain child pornography."

"A total of 4.2 million websites contain pornography."

< 1% of Websites contain porn. Philip B. Stark. UCB, 2006 (100-200m sites in all)

... But what do the numbers really mean?



How Porn Sites are Used : An Exception to "Winner Take All"

Distribution of User Volume Among Sites

<u>% of Sites</u>	<u>% of traffic</u>
	<u>All Sites</u>
.01	32.36
1	55.63
5	74.81
10	82.26
50	94.92

Adamic & Huberman, 2000



How Porn Sites are Used : An Exception to "Winner Take All"

Distribution of User Volume Among Sites

<u>% of Sites</u>	<u>% of traffic</u>	
	<u>All Sites</u>	<u>Porn Sites</u>
.01	32.36	1.4
1	55.63	15.83
5	74.81	41.75
10	82.26	59.29
50	94.92	90.76

Adamic & Huberman, 2000



Responses to Rotten Information

Institutional & organizational adaptations

Social change

Appeals to market forces

Legislative and legal remedies

Technological solutions




Technology to the rescue?

What if the baseball could repair the window?

myCIO.com is the world's first infrastructure application service provider. Rough translation, it fights internet-related security problems via the internet. ■ It gives your e-business managed protection 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, protecting from threats both inside and out. Anti-virus, security audits, firewalls, VPN, anything you need. ■ Cutting-edge products like MiAfee, CyberCop, GuardNet and PGP are customized to your company's exact needs, then managed remotely. ■ Need another reason to believe? myCIO.com is brought to you by Network Associates, the world's number one supplier of Internet security software. ■ Visit myCIO.com for a free trial. You'll see.

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The Internet caused the problem. It's only fitting it should also provide the solution.

 **myCIO.com**
Your Chief Internet Officer



Filtering Frenzy

RemoteWebGuard

We'll help you help yourself.

April 25, 2011 13:44 ET

Addicts Seek Help as US Internet Porn Addiction Rates Reach Alarming Heights

New Web-Based Services Like RemoteWebGuard Help Addicts by Monitoring Online Behavior and Blocking Tempting Sites



Ad for McAfee's GuardDog software



Legal Solutions

Children's Internet Protection Act:

Passed in 2001 -- 3rd attempt to regulate online
porn



Limits of Text Blocking

Text unavailable (imaged, etc.)

Confusion with innocent text (cf site on St. Augustine)

Need to block IP numbers – collateral damage due to virtual hosting

"Loophole" sites: translation sites, anonymizer sites, Google cache & images (classified as "pornography" by N2H2)

Inherent trade-offs of precision and recall



Limits of Image Classification

Images found "Probably Objectionable" by WIPE (Wavelet Image Pornography Elimination / Detection).





Social, Economic & Institutional Responses to Internet Pornography

Libraries can regulate use by means of use policies, training and guidance, monitoring of logs, tap-on-the-shoulder policies, etc.

Rights of other patrons can be protected by privacy screens, etc.

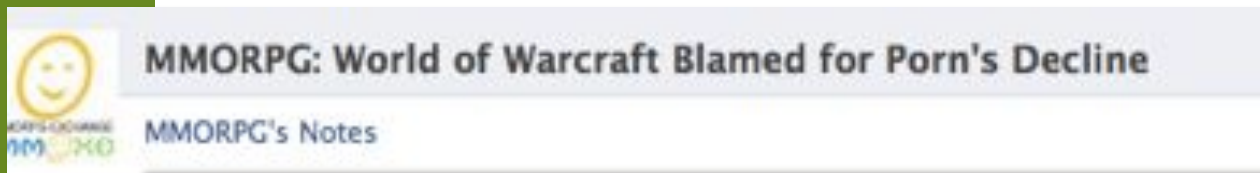
Parents can assume responsibility for monitoring kids' surfing.


Providers can offer "greenspace" browsers for kids.



Social & Institutional Responses

Even porn can get old...



 **MMORPG: World of Warcraft Blamed for Porn's Decline**
MMORPG's Notes

Porn industry blames \$74m decline on the rise of online dating



 About 1 year ago **Stan Schroeder** 12  Like

Facebook and MySpace are Killing Porn?

7  retweet  Share 23  Buzz 0  email  share



Porn Flounders, But Adult Novelty Business Booms

Published: Tuesday, 27 Oct 2009 | 10:47 AM ET T Text Size



We've been here before

Where else has technology interacted with social, political, and economic forces to produce outcome?

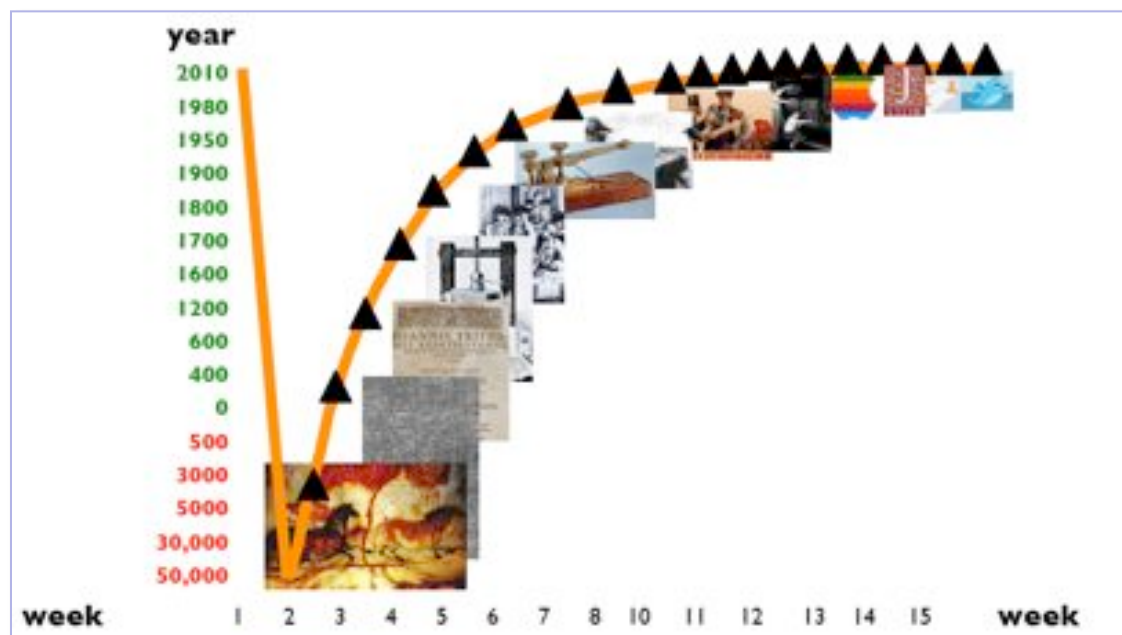


We've been here before

Writing
Print
Telegraph &
telephone
Newspapers
Advertising
Propaganda
Photography
Radio & TV
Computers
Search
Internet...

Where else has technology interacted with social, political, and economic forces to produce outcome?

Where hasn't it?





Looking Backwards

Which classes were most/least valuable?

Syllabus

Note that assignments are due every Sunday at 5pm via iSpace.

Week 1

18 Jan: Introduction: Why "History of Information"?

[Geoff's slides](#)

[Paul's slides](#)

20 Jan: Talking about information

[Paul's slides](#)

Week 2

25 Jan: Technology and Communication

[Paul's slides](#)

Required reading:

- Heilbroner, Robert L. 1967. "Do Machines Make History?", *Technology and Culture*, 8(3)
- Williams, 1-25 in *Television: Technology and Cultural Form*. London: Fontana.

27 Jan: The First Technologies of Information: Writing Systems

[Geoff's slides](#)

Required reading:

- Harshack, Alexander. 1999. "The Art and Symbols of Ice-Age Man." In David Crystal, ed. *Communication in History*

Pages

- > About
- > Assignments
 - > Assignment 1 - Defamation
 - > Assignment 10 - Infrastructure
 - > Assignment 10 - AGAINST
- > Course Resources
 - > Assignment 2 - Alphabet
 - > Assignment 3 - Printing
 - > Assignment 4 - Science
 - > Assignment 5 - Encyclopedie
 - > Assignment 6 - Maps
 - > Assignment 7 - Narrowcast
 - > Assignment 8 - Photography
- > Information technology?
- > Course Requirements
- > Final exam
- > Instructors
- > Midterm
 - > Midterm essay topics
 - > Midterm Essay Guidelines
- > Syllabus

Recent Posts

- > Welcome

Which readings were most/least valuable?

How could assignments be improved?

Other suggestions....



Good-bye and good luck

