



Agenda – Sept. 12

- 1. "Pollution" -- hate speech & porn; the spatialization of discourse
- 2. Responses to pollution



What makes for rotten information?

"Information" associated with a certain order of communication

So long as the order "works" (more-or-less), local failures and anomalies can be tolerated or dealt with and the conceptual framework seems to be transparent.

But when the order is disrupted, by technological or other means, anomalies and breakdowns come to assume an aspect of crisis.



Varieties of Rotten Information

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

Problems of quality: reliability and "authoritativeness" --



Varieties of Rotten Information

Problems of "pollution": pornography, hate speech, subversive writing, 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 byproduct of a systematic ordering and classification of matter, in so far as ordering involves rejecting inappropriate elements."



Forms of Polluted Discourse

Pornography/violence Racist Speech

Other "unacceptable" discourses:Political Speech?

How to tell pollution from samizdat?

Is pollution a worse problem in digital discourse than in print?

What are appropriate responses to pollution?

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, by objecting to its restrictions; have built up a state within the state; and when opposed have tried to strangle that country to death financially, as in the case of Spain and Portugal.

"For over 1,700 years, the Jews have been bewailing their sad fate in that they have been exiled from their homeland, as they call Palestine. But gentlemen, did the world give it to them in fee simple, they would at once find some reason for not returning. Why? Because they are vampires, and vampires do not live on vampires. They cannot live only among themselves. They must subsist on Christians and other people not of their race. 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...

Pervasiveness of Racist Speech



Web Images Groups News Froogle more »

Search Advanced Search
Preferences

Web

Results 1 - 100 of about 663 for "benjamin franklin" jews menace. (0.93

Jew Watch - References - Gentile Observations of Jews - Benjamin ...

... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention.". -Benjamin Franklin, 1787, at ... www.jewwatch.com/ jew-references-gentile-benjamin-franklin.html - 6k - Cached - Similar pages

Who Runs USA today? Palestinians won't get their independence ...

... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention." Benjamin Franklin. ... www.radioislam.net/islam/english/toread/frnklin.htm - 95k - Cached - Similar pages

What Washington & Franklins said about Jews

... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention. ". Benjamin Franklin. ... www.missionislam.com/nwo/usarulerslist.htm - 51k - Cached - Similar pages

Quotes from the Illuminate

... Rothschild family and brought to North America by Benjamin Franklin and Alexander ... "The real menace of our ... in the British War Cabinet, assured the Jews of the ... www.missionislam.com/nwo/illuminati.htm - 66k - Cached - Similar pag

Fourwinds10.com - News - History > Zionism -- What Would The ...

... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention.". Benjamin Franklin. ... www.fourwinds10.com/.../C-zionism/2004/ 07C-04-23-04-what-would-founding-fathers-say-about-bombing-iraq.html - 12k - Cached - Similar pages

WHAT THEY SAID

... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this country if permitted entrance, and should be excluded by this Constitutional Convention. " Benjamin Franklin RESPONSE (1 ... www.geocities.com/Athens/ Cyprus/8815/what_they_said.html - 24k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>

If Jews Are Really Persecuted - Why?

... published his diary in which he said: "Dr. Benjamin Franklin, a venerable ... "This greater menace, gentlemen, is the Jew! "In whatever country Jews have settled ... www.scripturesforamerica.org/html2/jm0015.htm - 22k - Cached - Similar pages

Satan's Kids! And the German Connection! - Part 2 of 4

... with an impression so deep that it is not effaced." From Albert Smythe's "WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN", New York ... Jews are Asiatics, are a menace to this ... www.scripturesforamerica.org/html2/jm0100b.htm - 62k - Cached - Similar pages More results from www.scripturesforamerica.org]

Were America's founding fathers anti-Semites?

... BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: I fully agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious ... The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews. ... adlusa.com/fathers.htm - 5k - Cached - Similar pages

Why are **Jews** persecuted for their religion?



Racism on the Web

"Prophecy" was probably concocted by William Dudley Pelley, American Nazi, in the early 1930's. First appeared on Feb. 3, 1934 in *Liberation*, weekly journal published in Asheville, NC

"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.



UC Berkeley School of Inform Pervasiveness of Racist Speech - Search on "Jew"

Google

Groups News Images Froogle Local more »

Search

Advanced Search Preferences

Web

Results 1 - 100 of about 12,300,000 for jew [d

Offensive Search Results

www.google.com/explanation

We're disturbed about these results as well. Please read our note here.

Jew - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Discussion of the difference between Jewish religion and ethnicity, with notes on the Jews' history, beliefs, and culture.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew - 101k - Sep 13, 2005 - Cached - Similar pages

Jew Watch - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

According to its supporters, Jew Watch "reports accurate information regarding ... Jew Watch features an archive of opinion, writings, articles and links, ...

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew Watch - 24k - Cached - Similar pages

[More results from en.wikipedia.org]

Jew Watch

Keeping a close watch on Jewish communities, organizations, monopoly, banking, and media control worldwide.

www.jewwatch.com/ - 32k - Cached - Similar pages

Jew Watch - Jewish Atrocities - Jews Against Jews

Rabin was assassinated in 1995 by a right-wing orthodox Jew. Abraham Hecht has been quoted as citing Jewish scripture to justify the killing. ...

www.jewwatch.com/jew-atrocities-jewsagainstjews.html - 8k - Cached - Similar pages

[More results from www.jewwatch.com]

Judgiam 101: Who lo a law?

Sponsored Link

Are Jews free

SI

Take the Nev learn what of www.NewzCr

Focus on An

US Holocaus How Deep ar www.ushmm

Scary Horoso

warning: very disturbing crucifies.com

No Millionaire

left behind bu other anti righ dontblameme

The World's I

A fun photo r to Jewish per www.GinAnd



Why is racist speech a problem?

How concerned should we be about racist speech?

Is it a worse problem now that before? How? What is the fear?

Is racist speech a problem?

Note concerns over interlinking: neo-Nazis to Muslim extremist sites, etc.

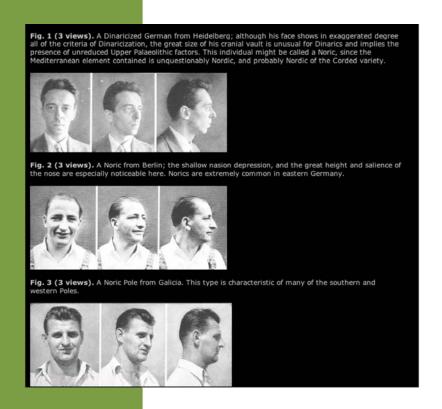
Cf Racist hosting sites (stormfront.org)





Is racist speech a problem?

Links to other racialist sites:







Pornography and Propaganda in Print Discourse

Cf 18th c. French "libelles"





The dangers 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 (Paris Hilton, anyone?)...

...Whereas children used to supplement sex education by tearing through National Geographic in search of naked aboriginals and leafing through the occasional Penthouse they stumbled across in the garage, 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

2000 OCLC study: 7.1 million unique Web sites (projects to 11 million unique sites as of September, 2001). 68,000 "adult" sites (projects to 100,000 in 2002)

Lawrence and Giles, 1999: 1.5 billion pages in publically indexable Web; 1.5% of servers contain "pornographic" material (est. 100,000 servers now). Search engines taken together reach 50 percent of indexable Web.



Issues of "Accessibility"

Much made of these figures. Cf Blaise Cronin expert report in CIPA case: "It is estimated that 100,000 sites contain child pornography."

Cf Ocala, Florida *Star Banner*, which quotes a spokeman for the US Customs Service.

[Pamela Paul asserts] that increased porn supply on the Internet (260 million pages of it, by her count) creates increased demand. Review of *Pornified*, NYT, 9/11/05

20 million view adult pages... are apparently hosted on sites in the United States or Canada. NRC study, 2002



Distribution of sites & traffic on the Net: "Winner Take All"

Distribution of User Volume Among Sites

<u>% of Sites</u>	% of traffic
	<u>All Sites</u>
.01	32.36
1	55.63
5	74.81
10	82.26
50	94.92
00	0 2.0.0

source: Adamic & Huberman, 2000



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

Distribution of User Volume Among Sites

	All Sites	Porn Sites
.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

% of Sites

source: Adamic & Huberman, 2000

% of traffic



Responses to Rotten Information

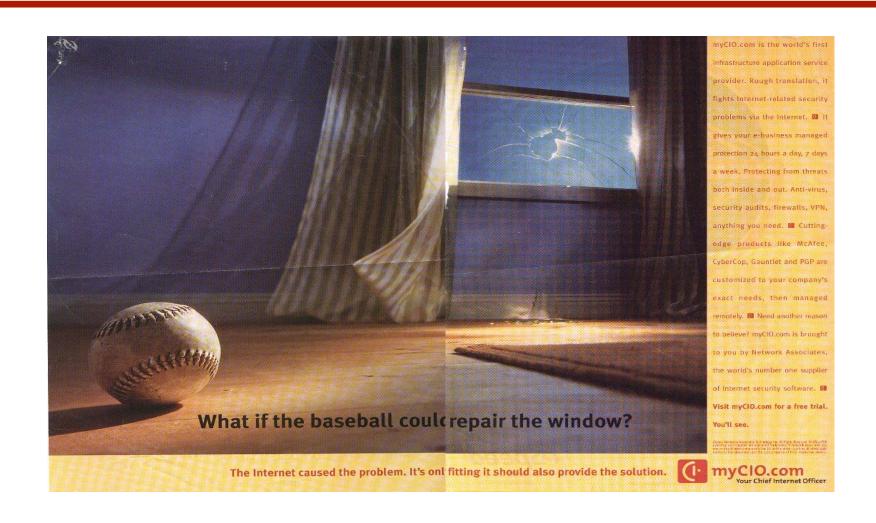
Institutional & organizational adaptations

Appeals to market forces

Legislative and legal remedies

Technological solutions

"The remedy for the abuse of digital technology is more digital technology."





Feeding the Filtering Frenzy



Ad for McAfee's GuardDog software



Childrens' Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

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

As condition for receiving E-rate discounts & grants under Lib. Services & Technology Act, mandates that schools & libraries must certify they are using a "technology protection measure" that prevents patrons from accessing "visual depictions" that are "obscene," "child pornography," or (for minors) "harmful to minors."

Bill provides for unblocking of sites for "bona fide research or other lawful purposes."

Challenge brought by ALA, ACLU, several other plaintiffs; heard by three-judge panel in March, 2002.



Social & 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.



The Phenomenology of Cyberspace

What mental models do we construct to make sense of discourse?

How do those models shape our perceptions of online discourse?



CIPA and Spatial Analogies, 1

"[Libraries] are simply declining to put on their computer screens the same content they have traditionally excluded from their bookshelves."

Solicitor General Ted Olson, arguing CIPA case before Supreme Court, 3/4/03

While Mr. [Paul] Smith emphasized the burden the law put on adults who have to request unblocking, Justice Stephen G. Breyer said: "What's the burden in asking? I grew up in a world where certain materials were kept in a special place."

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.



CIPA and Spatial Analogies, 2: The Notion of a "Public Forum"

"The relevant forum for analysis is not the library's entire collection, which includes both print and electronic media..., but rather the specific forum created when the library provides its patrons with Internet access. Although a public library's provision of Internet access does not resemble the conventional notion of a forum as a well-defined physical space, the same First Amendment standards apply."

Three-judge federal panel, in overturning CIPA, June, 2002

Cites Rosenberger v. Rector & Visitors of Univ. of Va., which holds that a state university's student activities fund "is a forum more in a metaphysical than a spatial or geographic sense, but the same principles are applicable"



The Spatialization of Print Discourse

Spatialization of written texts

"As I have argued elsewhere..."

"Where does Marx say that history repeats itself?"

Spatialization of discourse: the public sphere/ public space



Spatial Conceptions of Discourse

"Öffentlichkeit" as the "public sphere" Cf inevitability of spatial metaphors in conceptualizing discourse

"The public sphere [is] comprised of any and all locations, physical and virtual, where ideas and feelings relevant to politics are transmitted and exchanced openly." (W. Lance Bennett and Robert M. Entman)

The notion of "the public" rests on a spatialization of discourse that is supported by the modes of print production and circulation

"The press created the public" G. Tarde



The Phenomenology of Cyberspace

Phenomenology: The study of "phenomena": appearances of things, or things as they appear in our experience.... Phenomenology studies conscious experience as experienced from the subjective or first person point of view.

-Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy



The Spatialization of Print Discourse

Images of public sphere in print forms and institutions ("institutions litéraires");

Cf. the notion of the "trésor"

Libraries, anthologies, dictionaries, in a word "treasuries" [trésors], alongside of encyclopedic collections, delimit a vast territory on which are cast the signs required for knowledge, the expression of identities, and communication among the members of the group.

-Alain Rey, "Les trésors de la langue," 1986



The Properties of Public Space: Topology

1. A continuous, bounded space, with inside and outside.

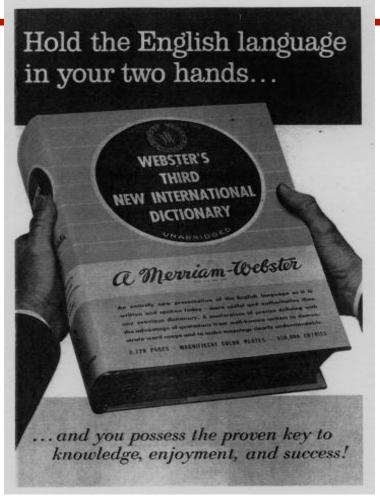
Boundedness lends significance to inclusion/exclusion, presence and absence, "scene" and "obscene" (H. Lefebvre)

Boundedness of spatial conception reproduces the distinction between public and private

Boundedness permits the pretence of comprehensiveness/exhaustive enumeration of public discourse...

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Formal Correlates of Topological Space: The Form of the Book

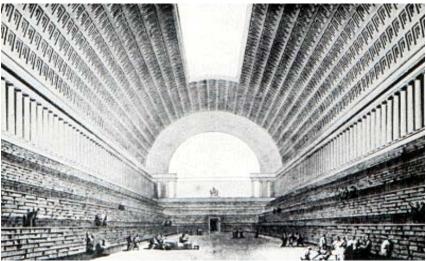




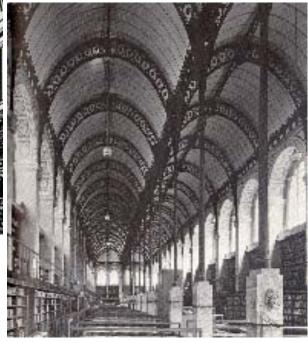
Models of Public Space: The Form of Collections, 1



Library of the Escorial, 1543



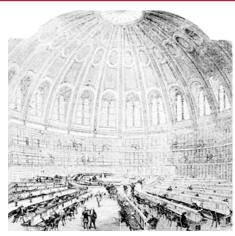
E-L. Boulée, plan for the Bibliothèque du Roi, 1785

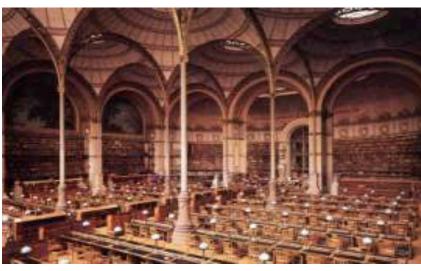


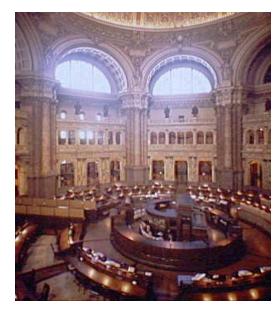
Labrouste, Bibliothèqu Ste. Geneviève, 1851

The Form of Collections, 2: The classical version

Smirke, British Musem Reading Room, 1851

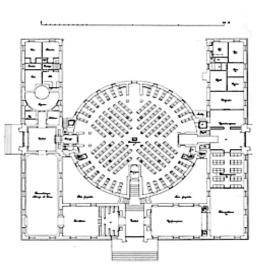






Pelz/Casey Reading Room, LOC, ca 1898

Labrouste, Bibliothèque Nationale 1868



Asplund, Stockholm City Library, 1928

The Form of Collections, 3: Postmodern Interpretations



Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1994



The Properties of Public Space, cont.

Canonicity: All elements of all subdomains are ordered with regard to "centrality" of membership (i.e., discursive space is metrical, not just topological)

E.g., canonicity of words in a dictionary, newspaper stories, authors, etc.

Canonicity permits essentialist abridgement.

Cf sense of "library" and "bibliothèque" to denote comprehensive publication series & catalogues.

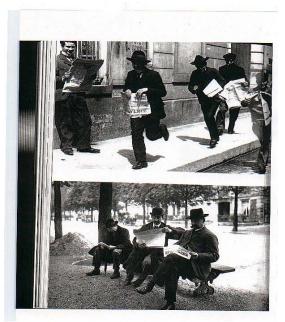
News summary, small dictionary as image of large, etc.

"If the lexicon of a language is indeed something like that of a circle, then... if one moves away from the center in concentric circles, the result should be a faithful image of the total lexicon." Henri Béjoint, Tradition and Innovation in English Dictionaries, 1992



Objectivity of Public Space

3. Commonality/objectivity of public space ("a common place"/ un lieu commun).
Supported by modes of circulation



The Book as a an "Inscription in Space"







The newspaper reader, observing exact replicas of his own paper being consumed by his subway, barbershop, or residential neighbors, is continually reassured that the imagined world is visibly rooted in everyday life...creating that remarkable confidence of community in anonymity which is the hallmark of modern nations. --Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*.

[Britain] has become a nation of readers

Johnson,

1781



The Book as a Public Presence,







How Spatial Metaphors Can Lead Us Astray in the Digital World

Imputations of topological space: Analogies to material institutions:

"Why do underage children have access to porno web sites on computers in the children's library section? Isn't this the same as having pornographic material available on the shelves for them to check out?"

"I grew up in a world where certain materials were kept in a special place."



Where Spatial Metaphors Lead Us Astray

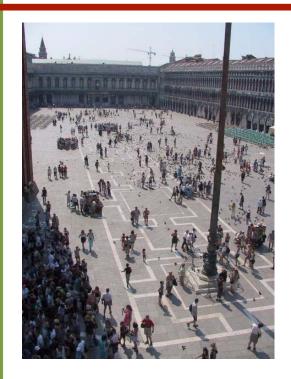
Imputations of metrical space: notions of "commons" and "community"

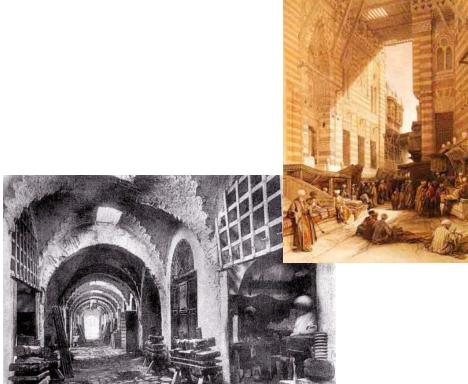
Cf. James F. Moore (Berkman Center), on "the global consciousness of the second superpower":

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.... Not every idea will take hold in the big mind of the second superpower—but the one that eventually catches fire is started by an individual.



The Internet - Piazza or Souk?







It's Just the 'internet' Now

Effective with this sentence, Wired News will no longer capitalize the "I" in internet.

Why? The simple answer is because there is no earthly reason to capitalize any of these words. Actually, there never was.

True believers are fond of capitalizing words, whether they be marketers or political junkies or, in this case, techies. If It's Capitalized, It Must Be Important. In German, where all nouns are capitalized, it makes sense. It makes no sense in English.

... in the case of internet, web and net, a change in our house style was necessary to put into perspective what the internet is: another medium for delivering and receiving information. That it transformed human communication is beyond dispute. But no more so than moveable type did in its day. Or the radio. Or television.

This should not be interpreted as some kind of symbolic demotion. Think of it more as a stylistic reality check. But now, by lowercasing internet, web and net, Wired News is simply giving the medium its proper due.



The "Bias" of Google News

Small conservative Web sites such as Useless-Knowledge, Men's News Daily, Michnews and ChronWatch turn up in disproportionate numbers when clicking on news about John Kerry... By contrast, a search on George Bush or George W. Bush typically results in a fairly neutral, evenly balanced set of results from both sides of the political spectrum, with many of the same small conservative sites showing up to sing the president's praises.

What's going on? Have Google's search results been hijacked by Fox News?

http://ojr.org/ojr/technology/1095977436.php



The "Bias" of Google News

What's up with Google News? The CBS report has been all the buzz in the MSM and in the blogosphere since it broke a little after 10am today. But as of 7pm EST, there is no link to any coverage of the report on the Google News home page. And there's not a single link to the CBS story on Google's Top U.S. news stories. Instead, Google lists these as the top U.S. stories:...

Hello, Google news? Reader William Schultz says: "Looks like a biased news search algorithm in Google News." Yup. (Roger Simon noticed the Google News omission earlier in the day.) Michelle Malkin, 1/10/05

You've got to hand it to "al-Qaedarrific" online news aggregator Google News: they are consistent.... Google News once again shows its bias early Thursday morning, leading its "top stories" coverage of a possible U.S. troop drawdown in Iraq with an article from an organization called the World Peace Herald, with the headline, "U.S. plans Iraq Troops cuts as revolt rages." The article is written with the decidedly "Bush Lied, People Died!" far left tone one would expect ...http://confederateyankee.mu.nu/archives/107298.php



The Menace of "Omingooglisation"

Once again, we see the risk of a crushing American domination in defining the idea that subsequent generations will form of the world. The criteria for choosing [the books in the Google print collection] will be strongly marked by the Anglo-Saxon point of view, which imparts a particular coloring to the diversity of civilizations. It would be harmful and detestable if one found in the English and American databases only narratives and interpretations [about the French Revolution] that were biased in multiple ways -- the valliant British aristocrats triumphing over the bloody Jacobins, the guillotine blotting out the rights of man.

-- Jean-Noël Jeanneney, Director, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 24 jan. 2005

Voici que s'affirme le risque d'une domination écrasante de l'Amérique dans la définition de l'idée que les prochaines générations se feront du monde. Les critères du choix seront puissamment marqués... par le regard qui est celui des Anglo-Saxons, avec ses couleurs spécifiques par rapport à la diversité des civilisations. [Il serait délétère] et détestable si l'on trouvait dans les seules bases de données anglaises ou américaines un récit et une interprétation qui y étaient biaisés de multiples façons --- les vaillants aristocrates britanniques triomphant des jacobins sanguinaires, la guillotine occultant les droits de l'homme. "Prenons l'offensive contre l'unilatéralisme,"



Fears of English Hegemony...

"The Web is the ultimate act of intellectual colonialism." Director of Russian ISP, 1999

"Nearly 70 per cent of the world's Web sites are in English, at times crowding out voices and views." Kofi Annan, 12-Jan-04

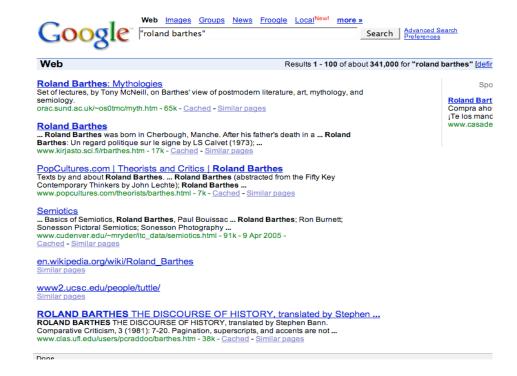
Why the confusion of Google Print and Google search engine?

Why the perception of "crowding out"?



The "Omnigooglization" of the Web

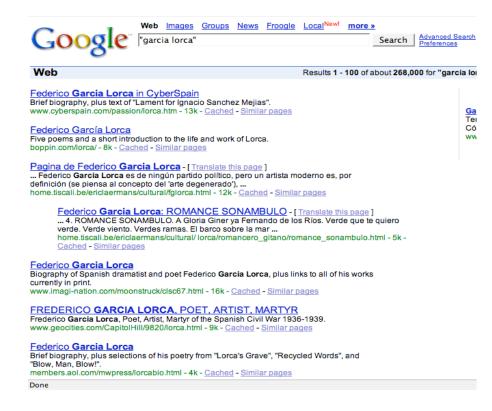
1st 50 Google hits for "Roland Barthes": 44 English, 4 French, 1 Spanish, 1 German





Omnigooglization, 2

1st 50 Google hits for "Garcia Lorca": 45 English, 4 Spanish, 1 Italian





When Google Supports the Idea of Internet Community - and when it Doesn't

("Google takes advantage of the uniquely democratic nature of the Web")



Searching for "Publics" in an Indeterminate Space

"The press created the public." (Tarde)
Still true, in virtue of the interpenetration of
materially anchored public institutions and
digitial discourse.

But "the public" may not be a useful notion for large parts of digital discourse:

Blogs: Public or "in public"?