Quantity & quality

Brown & Duguid

Shannon & Weaver

autonomy & authenticity

next week's reading/assignment

infoenthusiasm

Brown & Duguid

> a warning about the revolutionary fervor of many internet enthusiasts ... to view any claims about the internet (or really, anything) 'changing *everything* completely' with a great deal of skepticism ... Much about the world is the same now as it was before the 'information age' began.
>
> —Ross

how much?

Shannon & Weaver

"The amount of information is defined, in the simplest cases, to be measured by the logarithm of the number of available choices."

— Warren Weaver, 1949

elision

Shannon & Weaver

"The word *communication* will be used here in a very broad sense to include all of the procedures by which one mind may affect another ... not only written and oral speech, but also music, the pictorial arts, the theatre, the ballet .... a still broader definition ... the procedures by means of which one mechanism (say automated equipment to track an airplane and to compute its future positions) affects other mechanisms (say a guided missile chasing this airplane."

— Warren Weaver, 1949

"I do not, like a *jure divino* Tyrant,
imagine that [readers] are my slaves."
—Henry Fielding, 1749

control

Shannon & Weaver

Eisenstein, *The Printing Press
as an Agent of Change,* 1979

Beninger, *The Control Revolution,* 1986

Yates, *Control through Communication,* 1989

contra

de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, 1984

slippage

Shannon & Weaver

"The word *information,* in this theory, is used in a very
special sense that must not be confused with its
ordinary usage. In particular, *information* must not
be confused with meaning."

"Shannon has just written a paper on the design of a
computer which would be capable of playing a
skillful game of chess. And it is of further direct
pertinence to the present contention that this paper
closes with the remark that either one must say that
such a computer "thinks," or one must substantially
modify the conventional implication of the verb "to
think" — Warren Weaver, 1949

[the belief that] "content is a noble
 substance .. indifferent to the
 transformation of its vehicles."
                        – Geoff

autonomy

"information wants to be free"

organization

autonomy

"The external make-up of a book, its format and
the personality of its author are unimportant
provided that its substance, its sources of
information and its conclusion are preserved
and can be made an integral part of the
organization of knowledge, an impersonal work,
created by the efforts of all ... the
ideal ... would be to strip each article or
each chapter in a book of whatever is a matter
of fine language or repetition or padding and
to collect separately on cards whatever is new
and adds to knowledge."

Paul Otlet, 1934

the great fire

autonomy

"When we run over our libraries persuaded of these principles, what havoc must we make? If we take in our hand any volume; of divinity or school metaphysics, for instance, let us ask Does it contain any abstract reasoning concerning quantity or number? No. Does it contain any experimental reasoning concerning matter of fact and existence? No. Commit it to the flames: for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion."

David Hume, 1777

the world brain

autonomy

"It will be like a great cadastral of learning,
in which all elements in knowledge will be
reported and recorded day by day ... The old
form of books will no longer be maintained;
they must give way before the abundance and
variety of matter"

— Paul Otlet, 1934

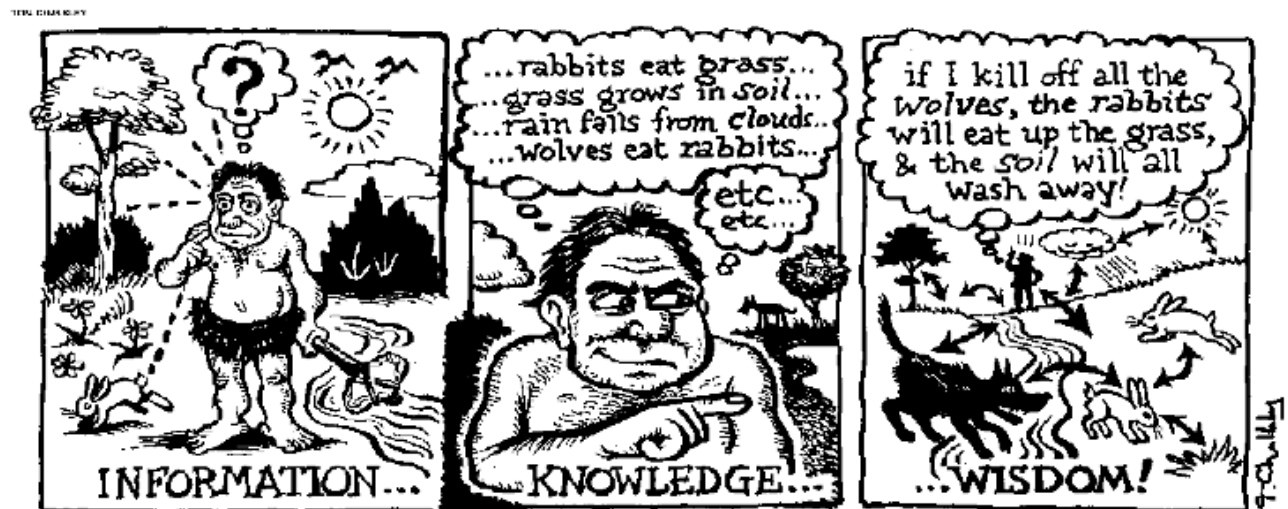"tree flakes encased in dead cow ... all that's
solid melts to air."

— Bill Mitchell, 1997

fundamentalism

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"

— T.S. Eliot, 1934

of the making of books

autonomy

The social process is really one indivisible whole.
Out of its great stream the classifying hand of
the investigator artificially extracts
economic facts.

—Schumpeter, 1951

"There are no isolated facts unless
someone has created them"
— Ilkka Tuomi, 1999

bookish information

autonomy

"Newly created information is stored in four physical
media — print, film, magnetic and optical"

— Varian & Lyman

"I gave twenty or thirty Copies of it about
among the Neighbours, which made it as
publick as if I had printed it"

— Daniel Defoe, 1722

"When people refer to the amount of information ...
they are talking about ... published documents"

— Geoff

"a lot of the problems of bad information out there, things that you don't like, are problems with humanity.... What happened with blogs and with wikis, these editable web spaces, was that they became much more simple. ...[T]here's a certain ethos within the blogging community, you always point to your source, you point all the way back to the original article. If you're looking at something and you don't know where it comes from, if there's no pointer to the source, you can ignore it. —-TBL

autonomy

free information

September 6, 2005

LK.com Wed 9-6pm EST)

had FOR MMIES

Michael Graham LEASHED!

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The Deadly Bigotry of Low Expectations?
Did the rumor mill help kill Katrina victims?

Matt Welch

All along Hurricane Katrina's Evacuation Belt, in cities from Houston to Baton Rouge to Leesville, Louisiana, the exact same rumors are spreading faster than red ants at a picnic. The refugees from the United States' worst-ever natural disaster, it is repeatedly said, are bringing with them the worst of New Orleans' now-notorious lawlessness: looting, armed carjacking, and even the rape of children.

"By Thursday," the *Chicago Tribune*'s Howard Witt reported, "local TV and radio stations in Baton Rouge...were breezily passing along reports of cars being hijacked at gunpoint by New Orleans refugees, riots breaking out in the shelters set up in Baton Rouge to house the displaced, and guns and knives being seized."

The only problem—none of the reports were true. "The police, for example, confiscated a single knife from a refugee in one Baton Rouge shelter," Witt reported. "There were no riots in Baton Rouge. There were no armed hordes." Yet the panic was enough for Baton Rouge Mayor-President Kip Holden to impose a curfew on the city's largest shelter, and to warn darkly about "New Orleans thugs."

Even before evacuees could get comfy in Houston's Astrodome, rumors were flying that the refugees had already raped their first victim, just like that seven-year-old in the Superdome, or the babies in the Convention Center who got their throats slit. Not only was the Astrodome rape invented out of whole cloth, so, perhaps was the case reported 'round the globe of at least one pre-pubescent being raped and murdered in New Orleans' iconic sports arena.

"We don't have any substantiated rapes," New Orleans Police superintendent Edwin Compass said yesterday, according to the *Guardian*. "We will investigate if the individuals come forward." The British paper further pointed out that, "While many claim they happened, no witnesses, survivors or survivors' relatives

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authenticity & information

authentic, *a.* (and *n.*)

PRONUNCIATION SPELLINGS ETYMOLOGY QUOTATIONS DATE CHART

A. *adj.*

†**1.** **a.** Of authority, authoritative (*properly* as possessing original or inherent authority, but also as duly authorized); entitled to obedience or respect. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7116 Saint Austyn..Whase wordes er auctentyke. **1382** WYCLIF *Isa.* Prol., No goostli vndurstondyng is autentik, no but it be groundid in the text opynli. *a*1420 HOCCLEVE *De Reg. Princ.* 125 The bible, Whiche is a booke autentyke and credible. **1595** CHAPMAN *Banq. Sence* (1639) 31 Let autentique Reason be our guide. **1630** NAUNTON *Fragm. Reg.* (Arb.) 62 We have an authentique Rule to decide the doubt. **1682** NORRIS *Hierocles* 20 To esteem their Sentences as authentick as Laws. **1724** SWIFT *Drapier's Lett.* Wks. 1755 V. II. 105 Some short plain authentick tract might be published for the information both of petty and grand-juries. **1849** FITZGERALD tr. *Whitaker's Disput.* 332 That is called authentic, which is sufficient to itself, which commends, sustains, proves itself, and hath credit and authority from itself.

classical matters

authenticity

Epimenides

𝕻𝖊𝖗𝖋𝖊𝖈𝖙 𝕯𝖎𝖚𝖗𝖓𝖆𝖑𝖑, 𝕿𝖗𝖚𝖊 𝕽𝖊𝖑𝖆𝖙𝖎𝖔𝖓,

𝕱𝖆𝖎𝖙𝖍𝖋𝖚𝖑𝖑 𝕾𝖈𝖔𝖚𝖙

Ovid

"ars celare artem"

the role & dilemma of institutions

authenticity & quality

authenticity

Memos on Bush Are Fake but Accurate, Typist Says

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

Published: September 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Bush, George W. 1st Lt.3244754FG
Suspension of Flight status

1. On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination (flight) as ordered.

2. I conveyed my verbal orders to commander, 147th Ftr Intrcp Gp with request for orders for suspension and convening of a flight review board IAW AFM 35-13.

3. I recommended transfer of this officer to the 9921st Air Reserve Squadron in May and forwarded his AF Form 1288 to 147th Ftr Intrcp Gp headquarters. The transfer was not allowed. Officer has made no attempt to meet his training certification or flight physical. Officer expresses desire to transfer out of state including assignment to non-flying billets.

4. On recommendation of Harris, I also suggested that we fill this critical billet with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated. Recommendations were received but not confirmed.

JERRY B. KILLIAN
Lt. Colonel

authentic but rotten

authenticity

'Game virus' bites mobile phones

A mobile phone "virus" inside a pirated copy of a game called Mosquitos is roaming file-sharing and software download sites, say security experts.

Confusion caused

But, confusingly, it has emerged that the Trojan was in fact not added by the group that pirated the game.

"When we first saw this we were confused ourselves," Mikko Hypponen head of anti-virus research at F-Secure told BBC News Online.

"We initially thought it was a game which had been hacked with a secret program that sent out text messages. But after analysing it, it seems to be an integral part of the game."

The company that made the original legitimate Mosquito game, Ojom, said it had installed the program itself in earlier versions of the title after concerns over piracy.