



Virtual Pollution



History of Information 103
Geoff Nunberg

April 30, 2015



Virtual Pollution

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: 1:58 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 online sexcapades.

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

The electronic smut falls under the heading of free speech and the protection of the First Amendment, library officials say.



year

2015

1980

1950

1900

1800

1700

1600

1200

600

400

0

500

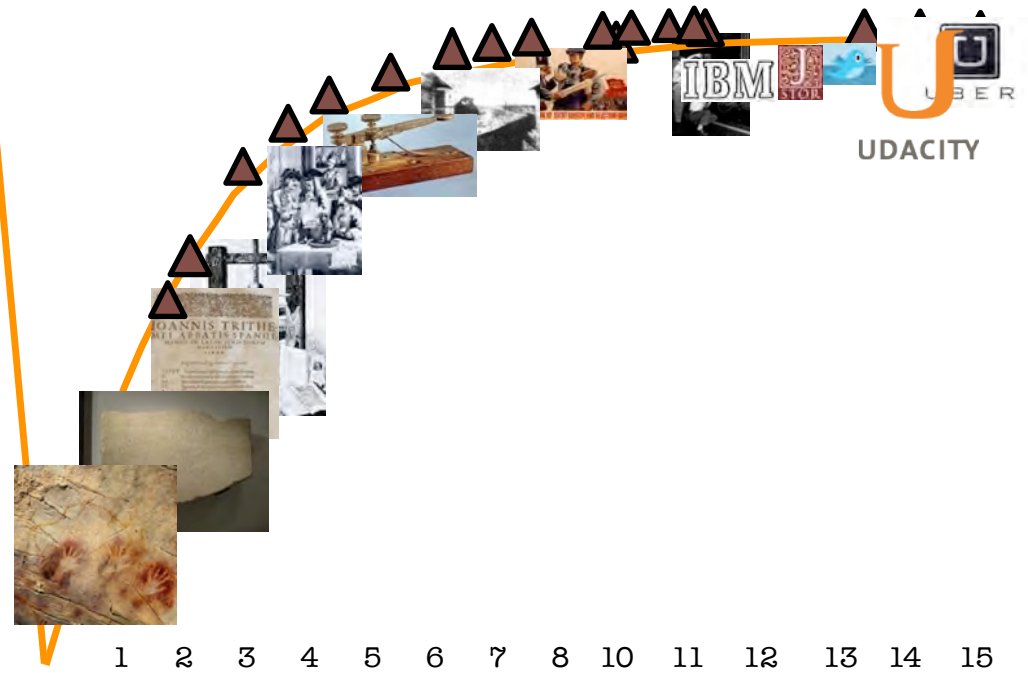
3000

5000

30,000

50,000

week





Itinerary, 4/30

Polemics and polarization

Life on the Dark Side

Virtual Pollution: hate speech, porn and incivility

Valediction



The siloing of political discourse





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)

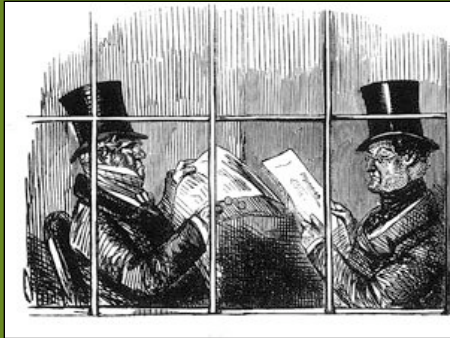
Exposes people to more information that is misleading, inaccurate, extreme, inflammatory, etc.;

Eliminates the guidance that the traditional media provided.

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



Polarization 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

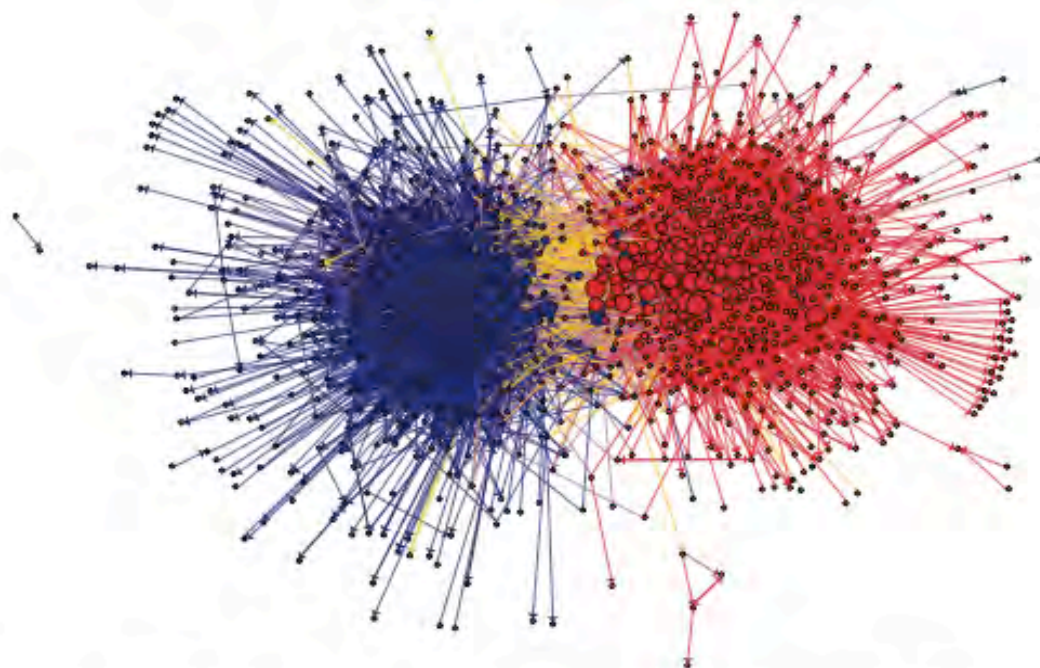


Figure 1: Community structure of political blogs (expanded set), shown using utilizing a GEM layout [11] in the GUESS[3] visualization and analysis tool. The colors reflect political orientation, red for conservative, and blue for liberal. Orange links go from liberal to conservative, and purple ones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

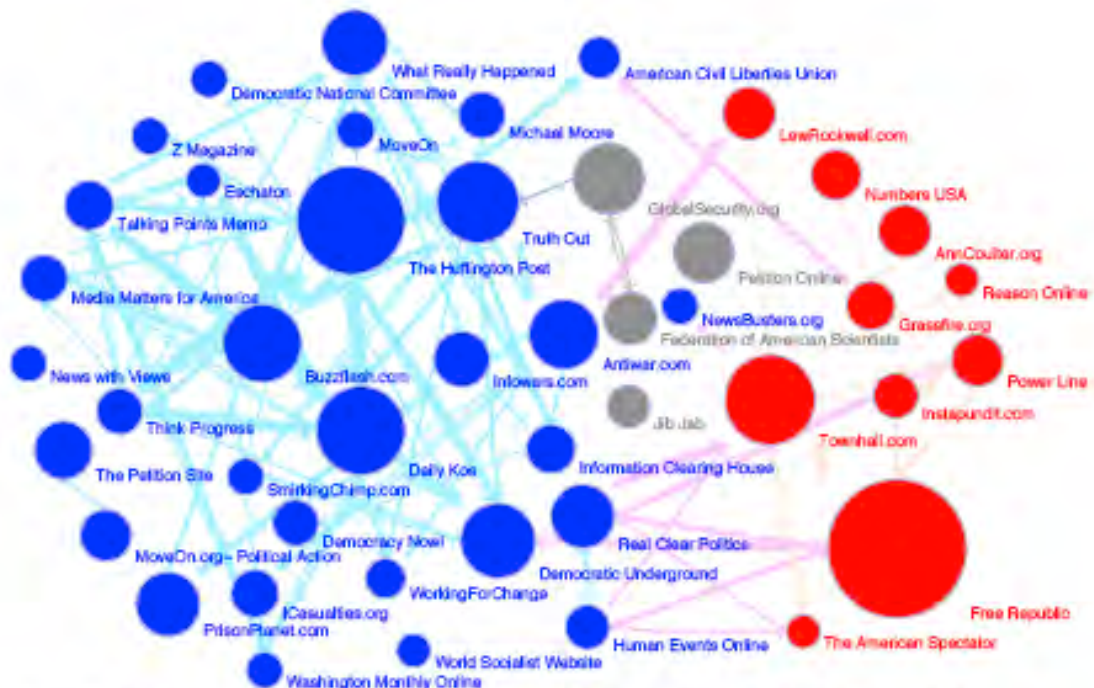
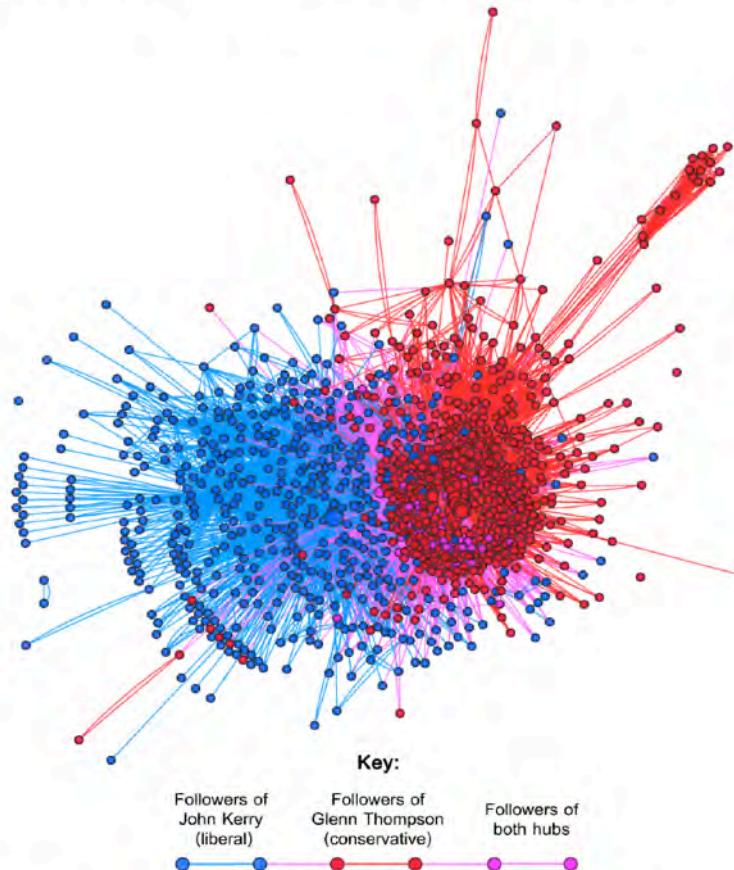


Figure 4.4: This figure maps traffic among the top 50 political Websites, as of May 2006. Liberal- or Democratic leaning sites are in blue; conservative- or Republican-leaning sites are in red. Self-declared neutral or nonpartisan sites are in gray.



Partisan Differences in Homophily among Twitter followers

Figure 3. Core Homophilous Follower Networks Of Two Political Hubs



Note: This diagram depicts core followers of two hubs closely matched on follower count and

Boutyline and Willer, "The Social Structure of Political Echo Chambers: Ideology and Political Homophily in Online Communication Networks." 2014



Polarization by age?

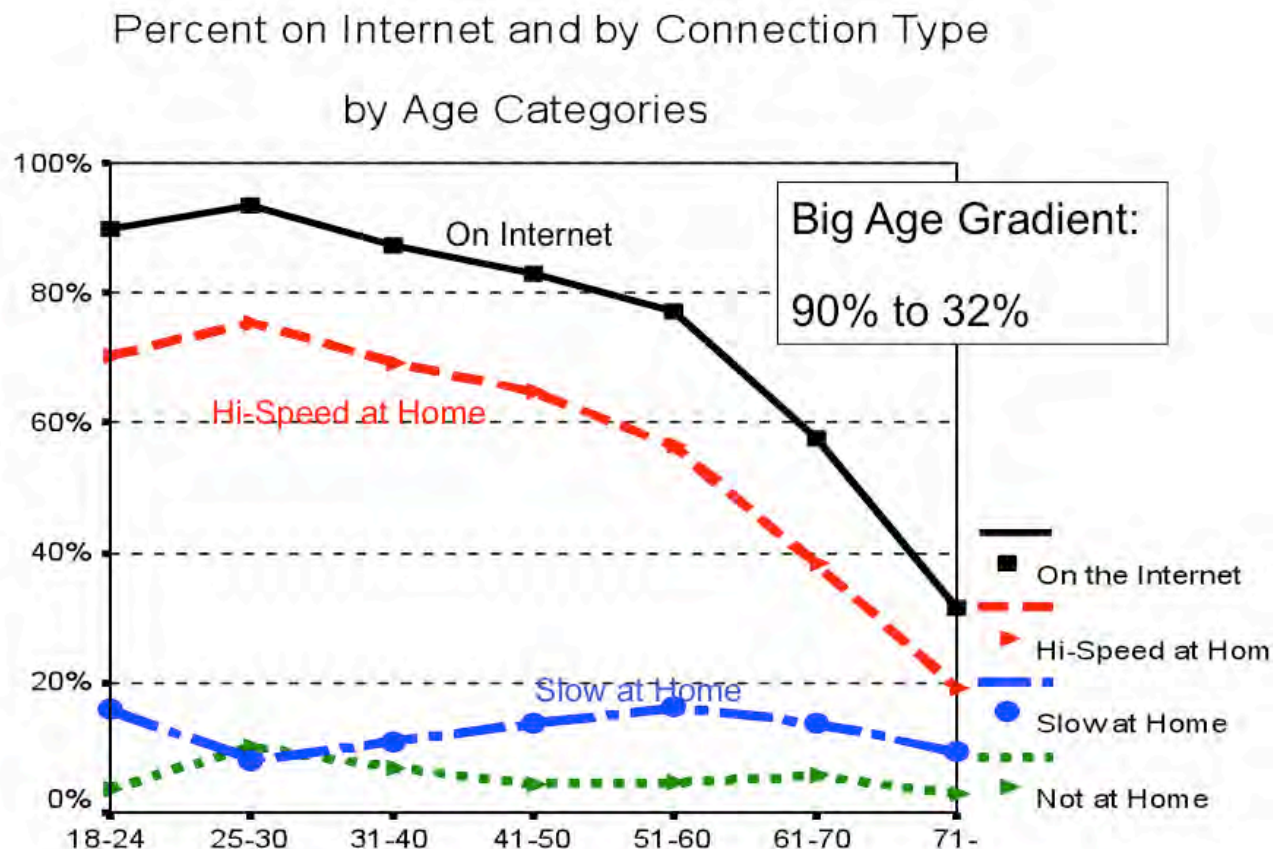
Average age of Fox News viewer: 65—but CNN isn't that much lower.

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



Reinforcing Social Divisions





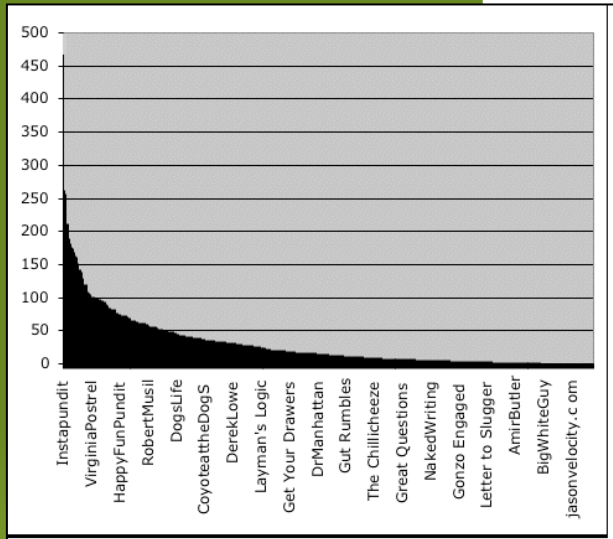
Polarization by gender?

Rank	Blog	Male readership (%)				
1.	DailyKos.com	47%				
2.	Instapundit	50%				
3.	Rank	Blog	18-34	35-44	45-54	55+
4.	1.	DailyKos.com	34%	13%	29%	24%
5.	2.	Instapundit	29%	22%	20%	29%
6.	3.	Eschaton (Atrios)	26%	29%	31%	14%
7.	4.	Michelle Malkin	19%	29%	19%	33%
8.	5.	Crooks and liars	29%	16%	30%	26%
9.	6.	Little Green Footballs	26%	22%	20%	32%
10.	7.	Powerline	21%	16%	24%	40%
11.	8.	RedState.org	29%	26%	26%	20%
12.	9.	Wonkette	28%	19%	41%	12%
	10.	Andrew Sullivan	31%	34%	12%	13%
	11.	Kevin Drum	22%	24%	23%	30%
	12.	Hugh Hewitt	31%	23%	25%	21%
		Average	27%	23%	25%	25%

Sites with highest pct of male readers
tend to be conservative



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

What you tweet

Republicans	Democrats	African-American	Starbucks fans
pelosi	lgbt	niggas	net
obamacare	suicides	songz	...
stimulus	homophobia	betta	sms
liberty	veggie	datz	...
patriots	baggers	finna	virus
taxpayer	rwnj	weave	restart
feds	inequality	flocka	recipes
taxpayers	wingnuts	bruh	oatmeal
trillion	mandela	boondocks	tasting
naacp	argh	jeezy	espresso
socialism	cinema	brotha	candles
...	mas	ole	pumpkins
libs	horrifying	str8	delish
leftist	rights	hart	columbia
tyranny	hysteria	..smh	maple
imam	sexuality	pastor	
	omfg		
	libraries		



"Branded content" & the future of campaign advertising

Red Bull

ATHLETES & TEAMS SPORTS EVENTS WORLD SERIES CULTURE

PRODUCTS & COMPANY VIDEOS PHOTOS AUDIO JUST EPIC GAMES RED BULLETIN REDBULL.TV RED BULL

AMAZING WINGSUIT FLIGHT ONLY METRES ABOVE THE GROUND



VID

Date
Pilot

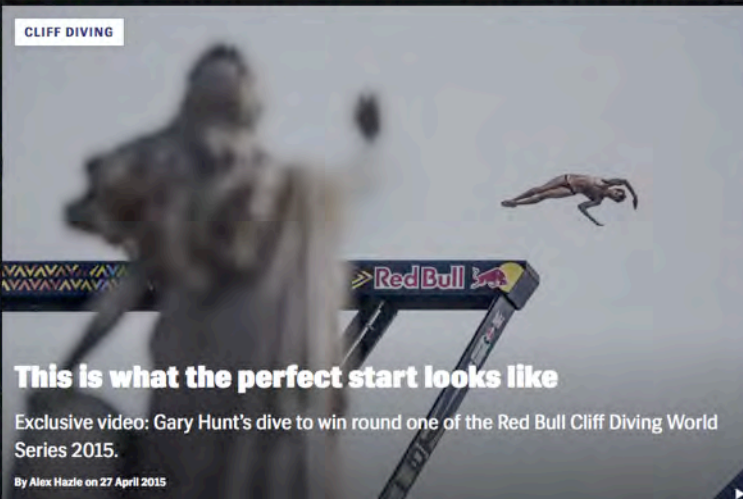
ABO

Soari
metre
has e
the C
flight



Motorsports Music Bike Adventure Snow More

CLIFF DIVING



This is what the perfect start looks like

Exclusive video: Gary Hunt's dive to win round one of the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series 2015.

By Alex Hazle on 27 April 2015

5 unsung heroes we'd want on our side

How to build a World Cup downhill track

Explore underground, underwater Mayan kingdoms

BuzzFeed

Politics Tech Lifestyle Food Rewind Celeb Music LGBT Sports Animals More

LOL win omg cute geeky trashy fall wtf

Paid Political Content

What Mitt Romney's "Binders Full Of Women" Says About His Views

No policies. No solutions. Mitt Romney's only answer on equal pay for women was "binders full of women." Watch and see why Mitt Romney's wrong for women.

posted about 4 days ago

Obama for America
Political Advertiser

Political Ad Paid For By Obama for America

Share 18 Like 64 Tweet 1 Email 2 Stumble

Mitt Romney's Condescending Views Toward Women



Barack Obama on Facebook

31,237,897 people like Barack Obama.

Katherine Hugh Andrea Geoffrey Nathalie

Jane Michael Peter Matthew Brian

Follow @BarackObama 10M+ followers

Barack Obama

BarackObama "Two weeks from today, Americans in all 50 states will step into a voting booth. But here in Florida, you get to start voting on Saturday." 28 seconds ago · reply · retweet · favorite

BarackObama President Obama: "I am fired up right now! It is good to be in Florida." about 1 minute ago · reply · retweet · favorite

BarackObama We'll be live-tweeting the President's speech on @Obama2012—follow along for the latest. 4 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

BarackObama Watch live: President Obama speaks in Florida about his plans to keep us moving forward. OFA.B0/u88x4H 5 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

BarackObama A round-up of what people are saying about President Obama's clear win in last night's foreign policy debate. OFA.B0/WmtdA 10 minutes ago · reply · retweet · favorite

Join the conversation



Effects of the Internet

The Internet potentially amplifies and enhances all forms of social organization
... But doesn't eliminate basic conflicts and oppositions...



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...

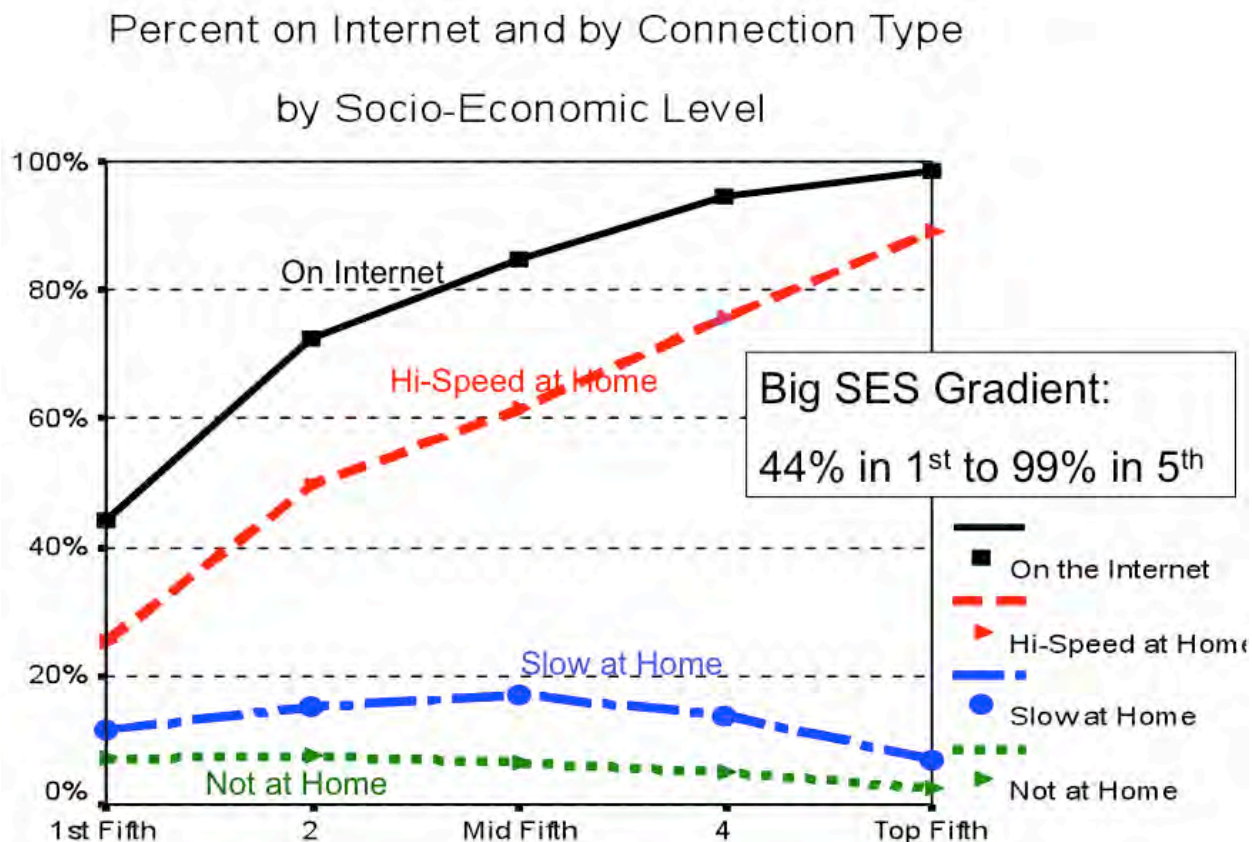
	Millennials Ages 18-33	Gen X Ages 34-45	Younger Boomers Ages 46-55	Older Boomers Ages 56-64	Silent Gen. Ages 65-73	G.I. Gen. Age 74+	All online adults Age 18+
% who go online	95	86	81	76	58	30	79

a.

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

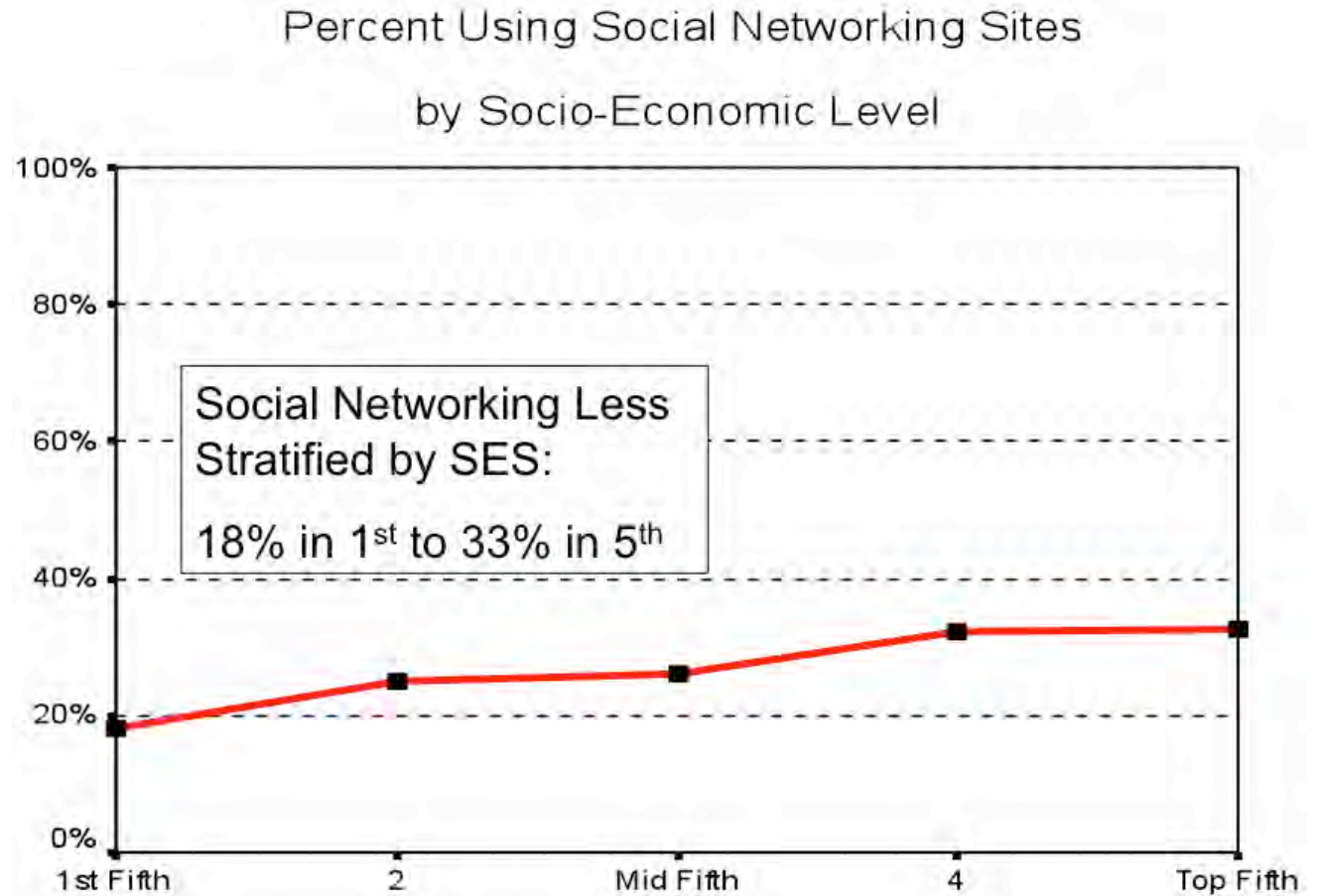


Political Participation Online





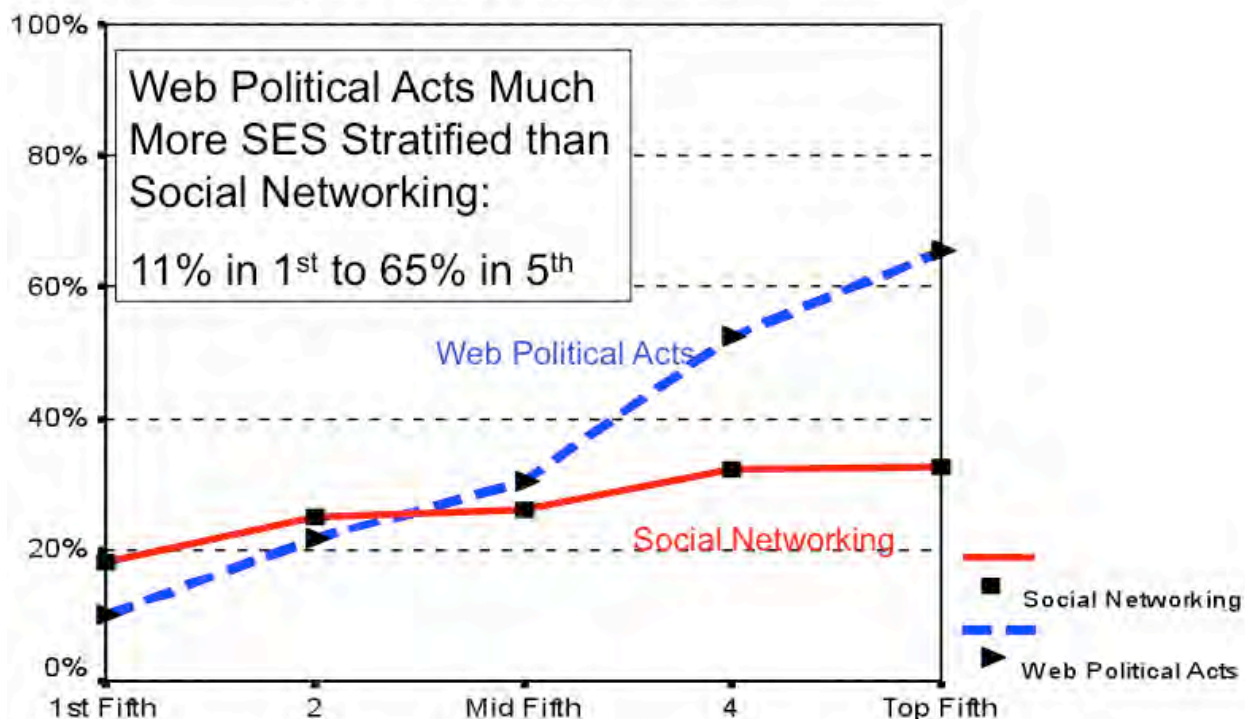
Political Participation Online





Political Participation Online

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

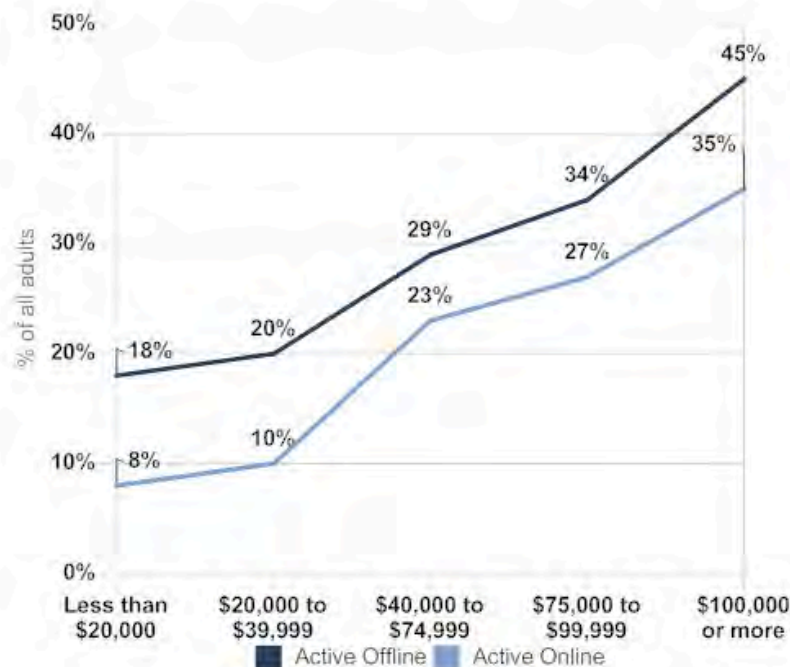




political activity online mirrors offline

Political activity is highly correlated with income, whether that activity takes place online or offline

The proportion of adults within each income category who have participated in two or more online/offline political activities within the last twelve months.



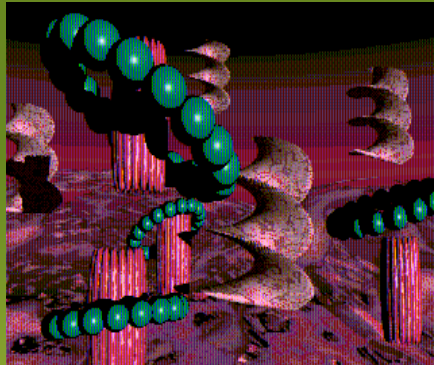


Virtual Pollution





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



Buyer's Remorse?



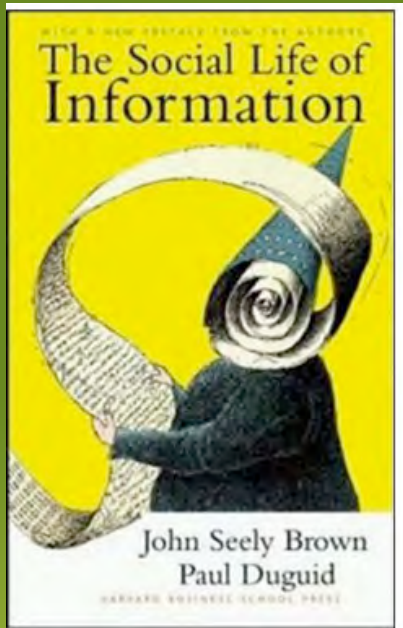
The virtual Bowery

[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



The Dark Side of the Virtual



Brown and Duguid's six D's

Decentralization

Denationalization

Despatialization

Disintermediation

Disaggregation

Dematerialization



The Dark Side of the Virtual



Brown and Duguid's six D's

Decentralization

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Despatialization

Disintermediation

Disaggregation

Dematerialization

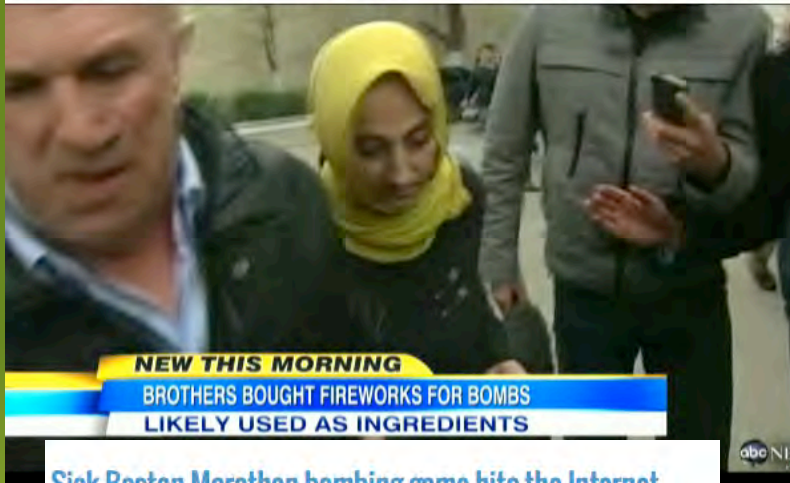
What happens when we eliminate material and social constraints and boundaries



Magnifying Social Deviance

HOME > U.S.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev: Bombing Suspect Has Online Following



Sick Boston Marathon bombing game hits the Internet

April 24, 2013 by Tom Tillison 1 Comment

Well, that didn't take very long at all.

Just nine days after two bombs exploded at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, killing three and leaving scores injured, a sick video game based on the terror attack has been developed.



The game, "The Boston Marathon: Terror on the Streets," has emerged on the Internet, according to the Daily Mail, with players taking on the role of a marathon runner attempting to jump over pressure cooker bombs. Dead and injured runners are seen in the street, splattered in blood.

What the Boston bombing taught us about Internet arrogance

BY FRANCISCO DAO
ON APRIL 23, 2013



Most of the tech industry, or at least the most vocal parts of it, have a prevailing belief that the Internet will solve everything while the government is little more than a parasite and obstacle that only serves to prevent the collective forces of the Web from solving all of the world's problems. While I think everyone can agree that the government does a lot of stupid things, the increasingly popular view that the government is unnecessary and/or evil and all we need is a bunch of entrepreneurs and the almighty Internet to fix everything is frankly asinine arrogance of the highest order.



Uses and Abuses of Chatter

CNET > News > Internet & Media > Boston police turn to Twitter for tips after ...

Boston police turn to Twitter for tips after twin bombings

The Boston Police Department uses its official Twitter feed to disseminate information and gather potential evidence.

Social

Boston Marathon Bomb Photos Engulf Twitter

Boston Marathon bombing: Was Twitter for the birds or revolutionary?

By Joe Gandelman Syndicated columnist

Updated: 04/26/2013 06:11:07 PM MDT

Man on roof near Boston Marathon bombings sparks Twitter debate



Daily Mail Online

@MailOnline



Who is this person? Individual seen walking on roof directly overhead as bomb goes off at Boston Marathon.

bit.ly/1oYspoK

3:28 PM - 15 Apr 2013



John Nolte
@NolteNC

Follow

I live in rural NC. We don't riot. We shoot rioters. Which is why we don't riot. We do watch riots on tv in cities where Dems ok rioting.



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Follow

Our great African American President hasn't exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore!

9:38 PM - 27 Apr 2015

6,416 5,966

Baltimore, 2015

LAW & ORDER

More: [Baltimore](#) [Riots](#) [Police Brutality](#) [Visual Features](#)

This amateur photographer's images of the Baltimore riots are going viral on Instagram



CNN politics

How Baltimore police, protesters battle on Twitter

9 TWITTER USERS WHO ARE ON THE GROUND IN BALTIMORE

In the news



First Night of Baltimore's Curfew: State of Emergency - Baltimore, Maryland (Dispatch 1)

VICE News - 11 hours ago

On April 19, Freddie Gray died from injuries he sustained while in the custody of Baltimore police. In the wake ...

[Amid Unrest In Baltimore, Images Of Empty Ballpark Game Between Orioles And White Sox](#)

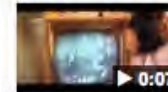
Forbes - 9 hours ago

[Texas GOP lawmaker: 'What is going on in Baltimore' is because of too many gay marriages](#)

Raw Story - 11 hours ago

[More news for baltimore youtube](#)

Good morning baltimore - YouTube



www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGa6Tkopqug

20 hours ago - Uploaded by chimpy tron

Good morning baltimore ... National Guard deployed to Baltimore Riots - State of Emergency in Baltimore ...

Daily Show - Baltimore on Fire - YouTube



www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wwy7pWVO3p0

16 hours ago - Uploaded by Comedy Central

Violent protests erupt in Baltimore, apparently blindsiding the media and CNN's Wolf Blitzer despite a long ...

Freddie Gray continue - YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1YrEMvZMU

Uploaded by RuptlyTV

er thousands paid their respects to Freddie's funeral in Baltimore on ...

News coverage of Baltimore ...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTCJwYVHi6w



Centering the periphery

Internet imams may have inspired Boston Marathon bombers

Comments 82
Email Share 32 Tweet 4 Recommend 28 +1 0



David Horsey / Los Angeles Times (April 25, 2013)

Follow @erinmcunningham

Boston bombing revives debate over online extremism

On the freewheeling net, extremists of all stripes are looking to radicalize, recruit, and disseminate propaganda among an infinitely wider audience.



news

arts & life

music

listen

news U.S. explosions at boston marathon

Boston Bombing Sparks Firestorm Of Internet Hate

April 22, 2013 12:00 PM



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"?



The boundaries of discourse: 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 they have a number, they have a commercial interest, and they will not be assimilated. They will undermine the foundations of the Republic....

. If you do not expect their Constitutional Convention to be swarmed here in order to dominate and control the government...

"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 "The menace, gentlemen, is the Jews."

Web Images

About 77,600 results

Judaism - Wik
en.wikiquote.org/w
As an ethnoreligious
Hebrews of the anci
Sourced - Disputed

snopes.com: F
msgboard.snopes.

May 5, 2004 - 8 posts

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

Did Benjamin Franklin really say this? - Godlike Productions

www.godlikeproductions.com/forum1/message988421/pg1

Feb 12, 2010 - 31 posts - 2 authors

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

What Washington & Franklin said about the Jews

www.missionislam.com/nwo/

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

George Washington & Benjamin Franklin on the Jews

investmentwatchblog.com/ge

Dec 29, 2011 - 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 by objecting to its restrictions; have built up a state within a state; and when opposed have tried to strangle that country to death financially, as in the case of Spain and Portugal.

Benjamin Franklin lost

https://canadianresearchauth

Jul 14, 2013 - 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 by objecting to its restrictions; have built up a state within a state; and when opposed have tried to strangle that country to death financially, as in the case of Spain and Portugal.

What World-famous Men have said About the Jews

www.biblebelievers.org.au/repute.htm

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

The Islam/West Debate: Documents from a Global Debate on

George Washington & Benjamin Franklin on the Jews

Benjamin Franklin was already an elder statesman at the time of the American Revolution. And his years had certainly brought him wisdom, for he knew of the Jews' nature, and he had the courage to warn his fellows about them. Benjamin Franklin's warning to the Constitutional Convention in 1789 concerning the Jews has been called a marvel of prophecy. But, really, Franklin was only giving voice to a common-sense observation. This prophecy was recorded by Charles Pinckney of Charleston, South Carolina, at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

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

Frank Weltner Presents...
This Scholarly Library of Facts about Domestic & Worldwide Zionist Criminality

Jew Watch

The Jew Watch Project Is The Internet's Largest Scholarly Collection of Articles on Zionist History
Free Educational Library for Private Study, Scholarship, Research & News About Zionism
We Reveal Zionist Banksters, News Falsifiers, PR Liars, Neocons, Subversives, Terrorists, Spies & More
The Jew Watch Project's 1.5 Billion Pages Served Demonstrate Our Focus on Professionalism
An Oasis of News for Americans Who Presently Endure the Hateful Censorship of Zionist Occupation



Zionist Leon Trotsky
of the Zionist USSR

Top: Jewish References & Documents; Gentiles Speaking About Jews; Benjamin Franklin

• The Franklin Prophecy

• Jewish Usenet Discussions

THE FRANKLIN PROPHECY

Recorded by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787

For some unknown reason, our school children today don't get to read these sage admonitions....

This prophecy, by Benjamin Franklin, was made in a "CHIT CHAT AROUND THE TABLE DURING INTERMISSION," at the Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787. This statement was recorded in the dairy of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, a delegate from South Carolina.

"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.



Pervasiveness of Hate Speech

Google

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.biblebelievers.org.au/cllist.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-and-the-american-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/28107776/The-Jews-100-Facts](#)


[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](#)
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.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10724195862](#) - [Cached](#)

[The Goldman Probe Is a Smokescreen | Republic Broadcasting](#)
... agree with General Washington, that we must protect this young nation from an insidious influence and impenetration. The menace, gentlemen, is the ...
[republicbroadcasting.org/?p=8165](#) - [Cached](#)

[Judenhass 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.judenhass.com/quotes.html](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)



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The Call for Participation for Wikimania 2010 has been released. [Submit your presentations before the deadline.](#)

The Franklin Prophecy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"**The Franklin Prophecy**", sometimes called "The Franklin Forgery", is an **antisemitic** speech falsely attributed to [Benjamin Franklin](#), warning



ADL HOME REGIONAL OFFICES ABOUT

The Franklin "Prophecy" Modern Anti-Semitic Myth Making

Introduction

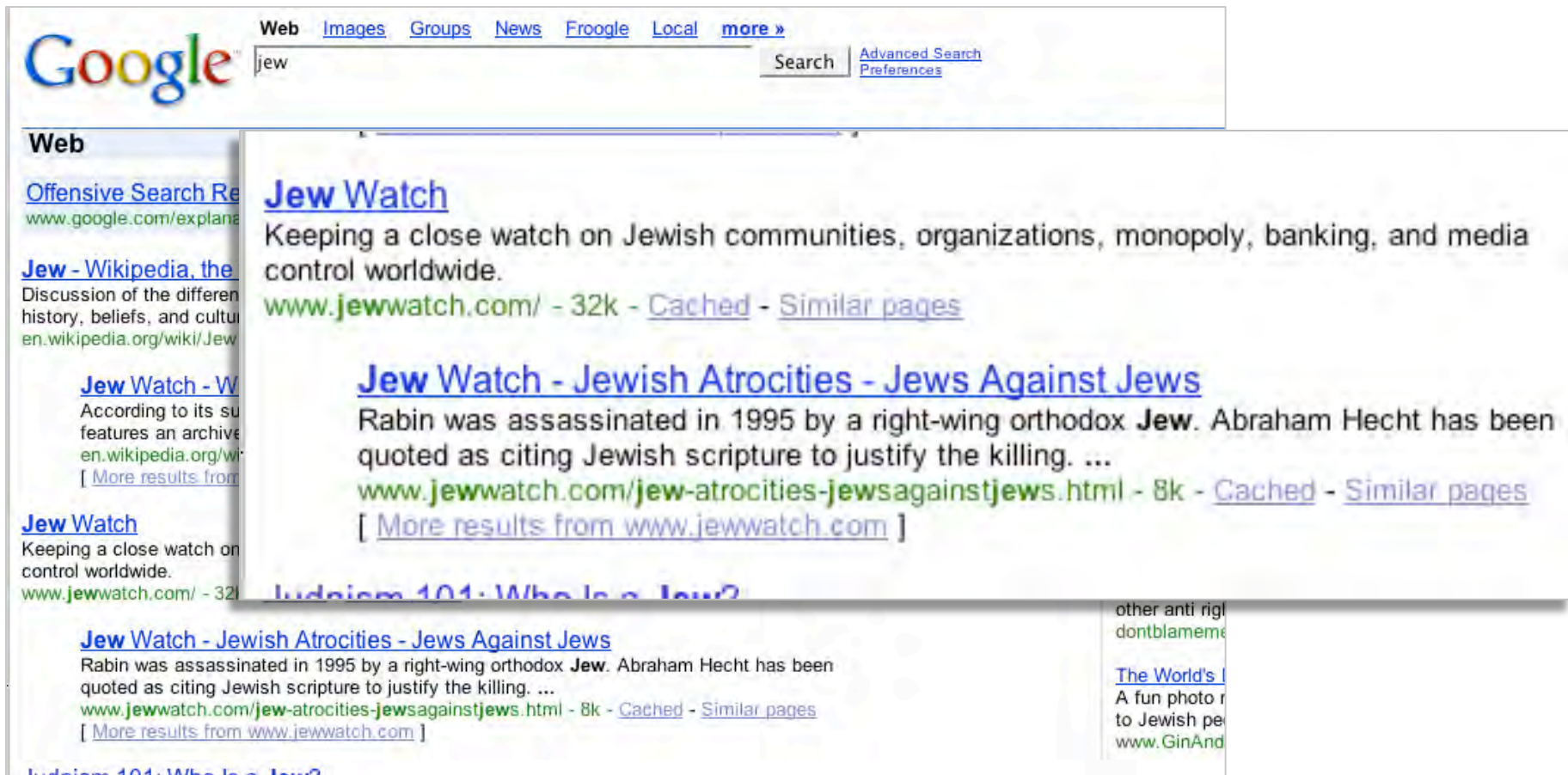
The "Prophecy"

The Uses of the "Prophecy"

Documenting a Fraud

Introduction

This article, which thoroughly documents the history of the tract known as the Franklin "Prophecy", appeared almost forty-five years after the 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





Google's Explanation

Web

Offensive Search Results

www.google.com/explanation

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. ...

What would you tell Google to do?



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?



Porn in the Library!!

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 electronic smut falls under the heading of free speech and the protection of the First Amendment, library officials say.

"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."

Local

Orland Park Library Porn Policy An Issue In Board Election

December 19, 2014 9:53 AM

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EVENTS & CONTESTS

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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2 replies

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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.



merrick_morroe

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
04/28/2010

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

Technological solutions

Institutional & organizational adaptations

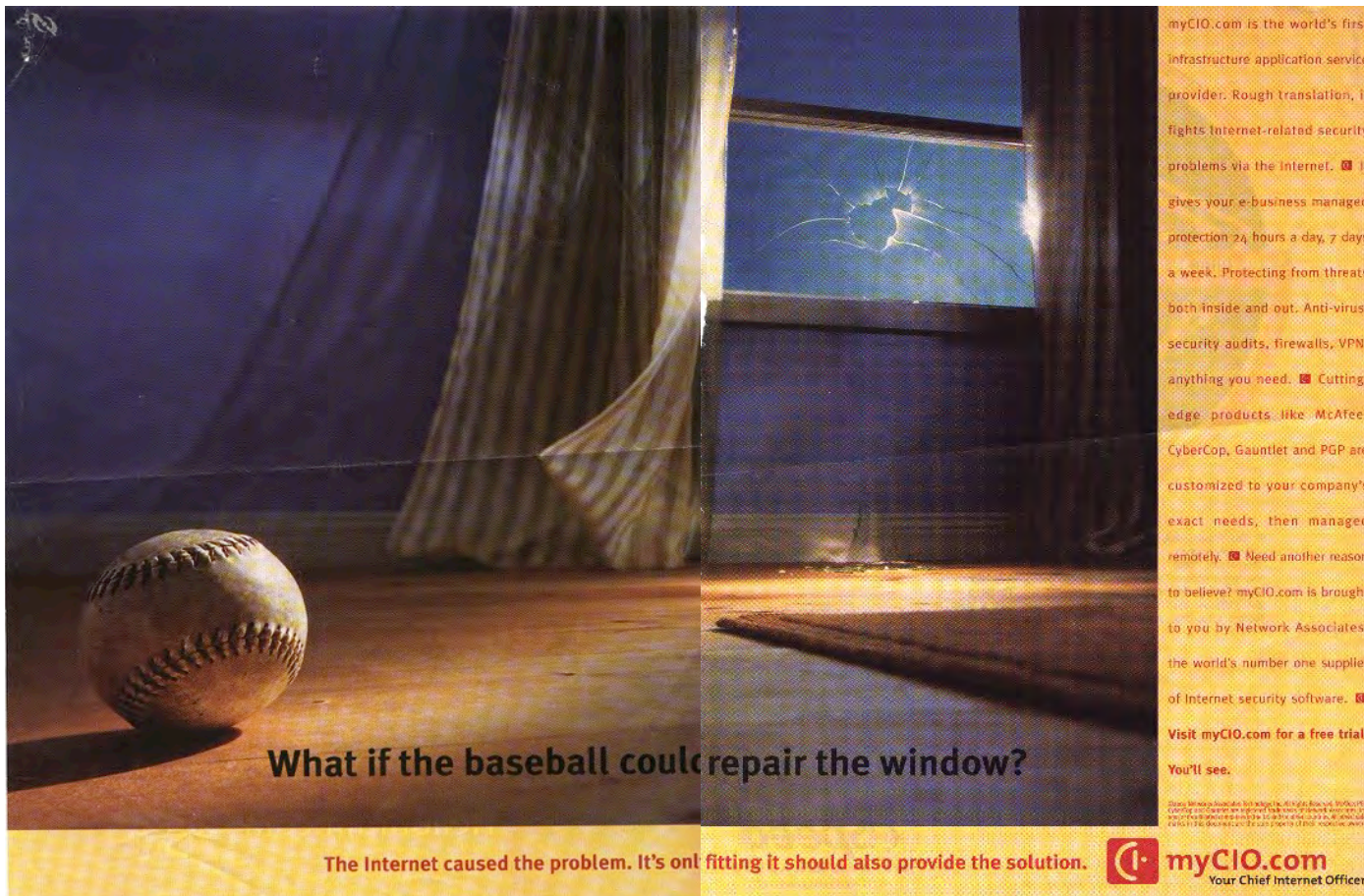
Social/cultural change

Appeals to market forces

Legislative and legal remedies



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 McAfee, CyberCop, Gauntlet 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.

©2000 Network Associates, Inc. All rights reserved. Network Associates, CyberCop, Gauntlet and PGP are trademarks of Network Associates, Inc. McAfee is a registered trademark of McAfee, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

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

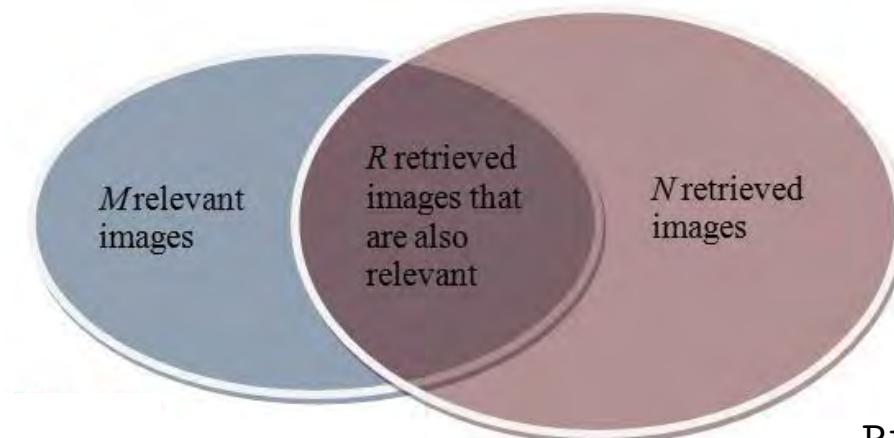
Text unavailable (imaged, etc.)

Confusion with innocent text

Need to block IP numbers

"Loophole" sites: anonymizer sites, Google cache & images

Inherent trade-offs of precision and recall



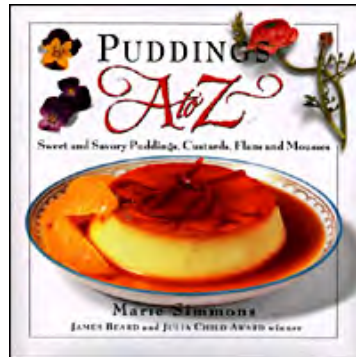
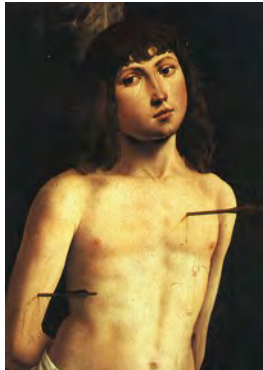
$$\text{Precision} = R/N$$

$$\text{Recall} = R/M$$



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.

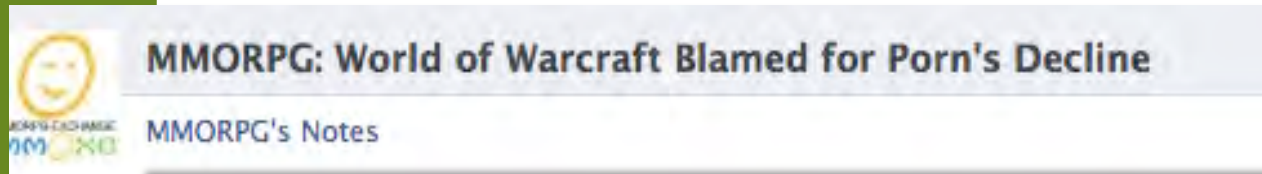
Parents can assume responsibility for monitoring kids' surfing.

Providers can offer "greenspace" browsers for kids.



Social & Institutional Responses

Even porn can get old...



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



Porn Flounders, But Adult Novelty Business Booms

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

Text Size



Technology and incivility

“Since the nineteenth century, every new form of communication has multiplied the opportunities for unwelcomed intrusions on our persons and privacy...

“The serenading troubadour can now thrum his throbbing guitar before the transmitter undisturbed by apprehensions of shotguns and bulldogs,” 1884



Transistor Craze— There's No Escape

by DAVID E. SCHERMAN

Oct. 15, 1960 Mrs. Sel Bono of 1309 38th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., a housewife's avocation, found that

transistor, adding that one her strong likes in the back during the commercial. "People inside things, often a pretty handy place to be, especially reports on how they were selected by their

SPECIAL
REPORT



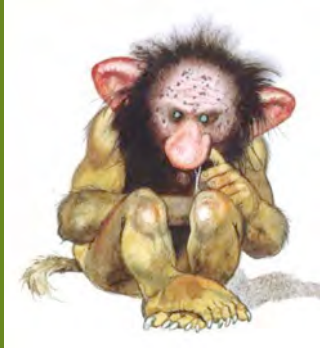
1961



1921



The New Bestiary: Flamers, Trolls, Sock Puppets, Bullies...



... In their power and ubiquity, digital technologies introduce hitherto unimaginable possibilities for being uncivil and inconsiderate: cyber-bullying, tweeting or checking your mail in the middle of a meeting, posting anonymous defamations about an ex-boss or ex-girlfriend..., lurking and trolling on blogs and discussion lists, and all the other forms of misbehavior that new media have given rise to.

The repeal of reticence...

The new vocabulary of incivility: trolls, sock-puppets, flamers, lurkers, shaming....



Being public and being "in public"



Redefining social categories

"the technological constraints and affordances of a site will shape user practices and...social norms will emerge over time." Ellison & Boyd

"it is often difficult for two users who both call each other a friend to know if they are talking about the same thing" (Fono & Raynes-Goldie 2006)

Or is it?

"Drama implies something not to be taken seriously, ... while the adult-defined 'bullying' connotes childishness or immaturity to teenagers." Marwick & Boyd



We've been here before

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

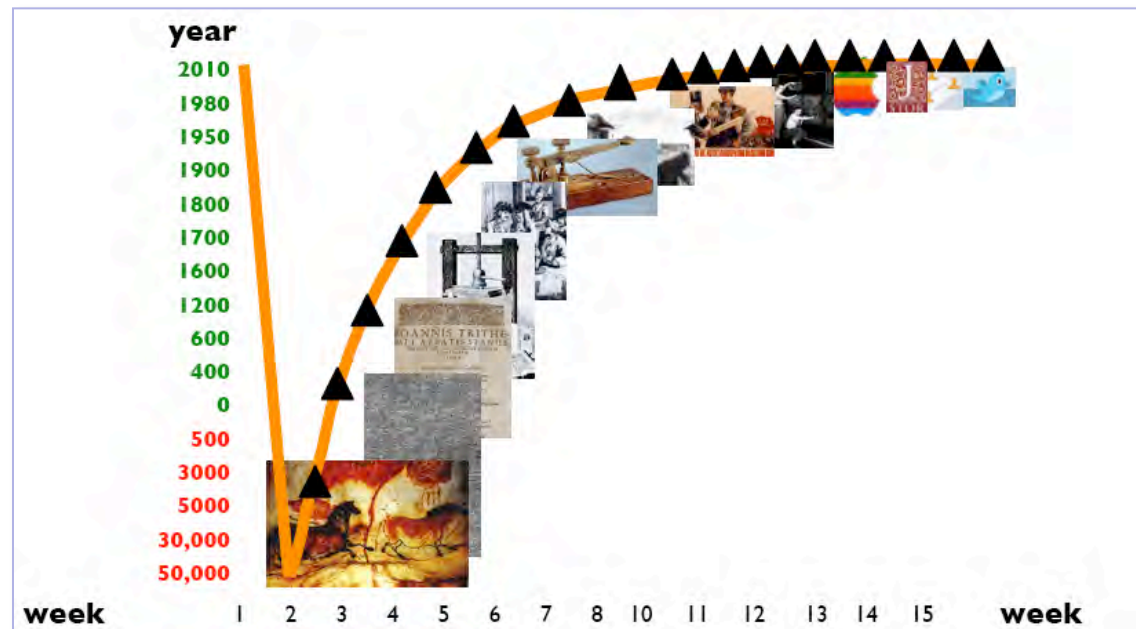


We've been here before

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?





History of Information, 2015

INFO 103 | COG SCI C103 | HIST C192 | MSC 104C

Note: Required readings not reached by "hyperlinks" from this page will be in the course reader.

Looking Backwards

WEEK 1

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

[geoff's slides](#)

[paul's slides](#)

22 Jan: The "Age of Information"

[paul's slides](#)

WEEK 2

27 Jan: Technological Determinism

Required Reading

McLuhan, Marshall. 1964. *Understanding Media*. New York: Random House.

Read: "Preface to Third Printing" (pp. v-x), and "Introduction" & "The Medium is the Message" (pp. 3-21).

Source: Course reader

Williams, Raymond. 1974. *Keywords*. New York: Schocken Books.

Read: Chapter 1, introduction and sections a & b, pp. 9-19; & chapter 5, section c, pp. 126-128.

Source: Course reader

[paul's slides](#)

29 Jan: First Technologies: Writing

Required Readings

Marshack, Alexander. 1999. "The Early Symbols of Man." pp. 1-10. In *The Dawn of Writing*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Source: Course reader

Gnanadesikan, Amalia E. 2009. *The Writing Revolution: Cuneiform to the Internet*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

Read: Chs 1, 2, 4, 12.

Source: ebrary [[hyperlink](#)]

[geoff's slides](#)

WEEK 3

3 Feb: Cultural Effects of Writing

Required Readings

Gough, Kathleen. 1975. "Implications of Literacy in Traditional China and India." pp. 70-84. In Jack Goody (ed.) *Literacy in Traditional Societies*. Allyn & Bacon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Source: Google books [[hyperlink](#)] [Also online here](#)

Havelock, Eric. 1980 "The Coming of Literate Communication to Western Culture," *Journal of Communication*, 30(1): 90-98.

Source: Wiley [[hyperlink](#)]

Additional Materials

[Southern Illinois and Michael Gale. 1999. "Imagining Literacy & Social Origins Information." 13341](#)

Which classes were most/least valuable?

Which readings were most/least valuable?

How could assignments be improved?

Other suggestions....



Good-bye and good luck

