CRACIN Annotated Bibliography

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ACTIVISM & CIVIL SOCIETY

Baron Porras, L. F. (2003). IC(K)Ts, civil society and new social debates. [Draft Memo].

In this memo, Porras presents his ideas regarding ICTs, policy, and democracy in light of his work with networks in Columbia. He argues that there is need to examine the speeches of civil society organizations, which he sees as new social agents, since they promote certain social practices. ICTs are seen as providing new spaces for civil society identity construction and reconstruction and building linkages with citizens is seen to be an important step for civil society organizations. He concludes that current social, cultural, and technological contexts are presenting opportunities for civil society actors to become empowered and gain strength.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Baron Porras


Argues that digital media can change and transform politics and uses examples of how the Internet has affected global activism as means of demonstrating this claim. According to Bennett:
The emergence of a politics that is shifting away from organizational conventions such as leadership, ideology, and government processes invites a fresh theoretical perspective. The goal of this analysis is to begin explaining how webs of contentious transnational politics operate on such a large scale, particularly among groups and individuals joined by little binding leadership or ideology, and whose protests cover such diverse political issues. (p. 148).

Bennett concludes that the Internet has not only helped movements to transcend geographical boundaries, but it has also facilitated the creation of a network that accommodates diversity and survives despite numerous changes in organizations and leaders involved.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Bennett


Focuses on how the Internet and other digital media could work to produce a new public sphere and form of democracy. Bohman examines the concept of the public sphere, looks at the potential of the Internet in this respect, and discusses an example of transnational politics (governance in the EU) in order to examine whether a new public sphere encourages discussion of issues in global democracy. He states that “while the mass and electronic media form the basis for global networks for the production and distribution of information, they produce a different kind of public space and hence develop a form of publicity different from a ‘cosmopolitan’ or global public sphere” (p. 137).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Bohman

Develops concepts of the public sphere and counter-public sphere in order to begin theorizing alternative media (non-mass media) uses by radical groups. The authors briefly summarize Habermas’ view of the public sphere and how his opinion of the public as dupes shifted after 1989 to incorporate the possibility of intervention by the public. They continue by asking “whether these groups in civil society can intervene in the mass media public sphere and change the agenda through bringing about a critical process of communication” (p. 188). In reviewing Habermas’ ambivalence towards the internet in relation to the public sphere, the authors argue that “the possibility for political public spheres to emerge is likely to rest in part on the ability of autonomous public spheres to create alliances and organize solidarity, but the new forms of solidarity that networks may help to engender may also mean a greater fragmentation of civil society with adverse consequences for democratic deliberation” (p. 190). They proceed by examining ‘autonomous public spheres’ and civil society, stressing the importance of keeping the two terms distinct: “Separating civil society from the public sphere allows us to identify those types of social organization within a counterpublic sphere that may work against democratic gain – they may be autonomous but anti-democratic in process and purpose” (p. 191). It is suggested that a “cultural politics of counter-publicity” needs to address the complexities of multiple public and counter-public spheres as well as contexts, both global and local (p. 195). After providing some brief examples of both Left and Right-wing counter-publics using the internet, the authors conclude that new media such as the internet may help to destabilize the public sphere and create counter-publics, posing both opportunities and dangers for democracy.

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Downey & Fenton*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Mueller, Page, & Kuerbis*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/O Siochru & Costanza-Chock*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Padovani & Tuzzi*

A Social Science Research Council report discussing the use of the internet for social change, including issues such as collaboration, online publishing, online mobilization, and online observation. For each section, the authors provide examples of specific transnational civil society groups using the internet, from Friends of the Earth International to Indymedia and organizing the ‘Battle in Seattle.’ The report assumes civil society organizations have basic access to technologies (or will soon) and focuses on skill development and learning to use networked technologies strategically despite inequalities and current trends that work against democratic uses. The case studies, as examples of innovative uses of technology, look at “the terrain of civil society Internet use in three ways – through visual maps of network technologies, short case studies and reportage on broadly used approaches” (p. 3). The authors conclude that there are five important areas where civil society needs to direct attention with respect to appropriating networked technologies: “equity, impact, trust, sustainability and enclosure” (p. 62).

Recommendations include: building the ‘social tech network,’ a focus on goals, exploration of equitable technologies and models including open source, etc.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Surman & Reilly (2003), Executive summary and Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Surman & Reilly (2003), Full report


Examines anti-neo-liberal globalization websites as they are applied to the work of protest organization and social movement development. The authors argue “political action is made easier, faster, and more universal by the developing [information and communication] technologies” (p. 466). A coding scheme is used to analyze the content of seventeen websites in relation to three issues: how the anti-globalization movement is conceptualized, mobilization of activists, and establishment of a network. The authors conclude that the Internet is playing a role in integrating various movements and organizations to form a network of anti-globalization, however, the authors are careful not to make any sweeping conclusions as the context of these movements and the Internet are constantly changing and also because other ICTs (such as cell phones) were not examined.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Van Aelst & Walgrave


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Activism & Civil Society/Weber
CHILDREN & YOUTH


From a cultural studies perspective, Alvermann discusses the media and ICT use of preadolescents and adolescents as it is seen to be affecting literacy practices of readings, writing, and viewing. Her focus is specifically on the implications for teachers. She argues that teachers should be more inclusive of hypertexts in the classroom since they reflect “literacies that count in today’s youth culture” (p. 81) and concludes that while there is limited research about how media and ICTs may support literacy teaching, “there is promising evidence of the effectiveness of literacy instruction that integrates hypermedia, hypertext, the Internet, and other ICT” (p. 81).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Children & Youth/Alvermann*


Clark presents a case study based on observation data gathered at a community technology center (CTC) located in a lower income neighborhood and where youth were the primary users. Her research questions are: “(1) how have community technology centers defined and attempted to address the needs of underserved populations with regard to new media technologies? and (2) what are the policy implications that emerge as a result of these practices?” (p. 97). She addresses the perceived gap between policymakers and critical/cultural theorists and argues that “the assumed relationship between social good and the availability of new media technologies has undergirded both the current focus on universal service obligations, as well as the policies advocating that access to the technologies be made available in schools and in other public locations,” however, how that access results in social good is not explained (p. 98). A brief overview of the CTC observations reveals how the use of the center by youth to play on-line games did not reflect the funders’ ideas of the center’s purpose as a social good and as a place to develop computer skills. Despite this gap, Clark is clear in acknowledging that the CTC’s users found value in the center and that it provided a space in which young people could gather and interact safely: “community technology centers have the potential to fulfil an especially important social good for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, as such locations provide a safe place for them to be and to interact with one another, and hence to develop a sense of the interests – political and otherwise – that they share with other members of their community” (p.109). She concludes the paper with two policy implications developed from her research: the need to address issues beyond access to the technology (such as social good, social capital, citizenship, etc.), and the need to address the ‘fourth rights revolution’ and corporate accountability in light of government funding cutbacks (p. 112). In conclusion, she states: “Because of the focus on access and skill development, it has been possible for policymakers to overlook the potential benefits of community technology centers that may serve as a ‘third place’ where important opportunities for networking and awareness of basic human rights might be fostered” (p. 114).

In this article, Livingstone reviews research to date on children’s uses of the internet, addressing key academic and policy questions. She asks: “(1) what empirical research has been conducted on children’s use of the internet? (2) How should this research be evaluated? and 3) what does the academy need to do next?” (p. 148). Survey and empirical data are reviewed, demonstrating how research has moved beyond descriptive accounts of internet use and statistics to address other issues such as the changing environment of the home. She argues that the field of research is still young and continues to be driven by policy agendas, and highlights common questions of concern as well as possible points of consensus between those focused on opportunities and those concerned with dangers. The article concludes with a summary of methodological concerns and research priorities. These priorities are grouped as follows: “(1) communication, identity and participation; (2) education, learning and literacy; (3) the dangers of exclusion and the digital divide; and (4) the dangers of use, particularly contact, content and commercialism” (p. 160).

Sandvig, C. (n.dat.) Young children’s internet use in public places: Implications from San Francisco for filtering and subsidy [Draft].

In this paper, Sandvig discusses research done at a public internet access center in a San Francisco children’s library. He focuses on internet use by children under age 14 with the aim of influencing policy decisions which would place controls on internet use in subsidized access centers. Four areas in particular are addressed: “what children do (proscribed content and other content), how they find things to do (searching, children’s sites vs. others), how they learn about computers (sharing, watching), and how the organization of the library and computer can help or hurt (space, filtering)” (p. 1). Policy implications are presented throughout the paper, and these focus on issues such as pornographic material, otherwise ‘forbidden’ content, content specifically for children, educational content, content in game format, how children learn to use computers, use of space, etc. Sandvig concludes the paper with a “model policy for children’s access in public places,” proposing a five part plan including subsidy, topography, technological controls, organization, and public awareness (p. 10). He concludes by arguing that:

As a society, we desire to empower young children while simultaneously restricting and controlling them. Many of the consequences that emerge from this research site are consequences of this very old tug-of-war rather than properties of ‘children’ or ‘The Internet’. This is not to say that protecting children is ignoble, but that because danger to children is so sensational, the balance between protection and empowerment tends to overemphasize protection” (p. 10).

Sandvig discusses in this article research conducted in a San Francisco public internet access center for children under age 14. In this article he focuses on the quantitative data from this project, which tracked thousands of internet page requests over 16 weeks. The public policy issues of access, privacy, and indecency are the focus as Sandvig works to “confront policy initiatives with empirical measures of use” (p. 172). He reviews the history of internet policy in the U.S. (particularly with respect to the digital divide and privacy) and the development of technology centers. Conclusions reached from the quantitative data include:

- The internet use at the center concentrated on a small number of websites.
- Game-playing and communicating with others (e.g., chat sites and e-mail) were the most popular online activities.
- Advertising was commonly found on websites that were visited.
- Visits to pornographic sites were not common.
- Educational content was avoided and children considered the center as a place of leisure and play.
- Computers at the center were often shared among children and many children learn to use the computer by watching others.

Sandvig concludes by arguing that “Internet policies to date in the three areas examined seem to have notable lacks” and that “all of the policies considered here appear to be somewhat disconnected from the material conditions that they attempt to regulate” (p. 180).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Children & Youth/Sandvig (2003)*


Seiter describes a research project in which children aged 8-11 produced a community newspaper and learned internet skills at the same time. The project draws upon three areas of research (and respective researchers): “(1) my colleagues at UCSD, Michael Cole and Olga Vasquez, who pioneered the model of the after-school computer class; (2) Ann Haas Dyson’s study of children’s use of popular culture to negotiate ideology; and the concept of critical literacy developed by Paolo Freire” (p. 89). Each of these is reviewed in the article and Seiter demonstrates how each affected the research project she is describing. In the article, she discusses “the ways children…have both generated—and discarded—story ideas; how their stories reflect their conflicting and overlapping age, gender, and ethnic identities; and how their use of computers has challenged [her] to reexamine the project’s goals and the meaning of the internet in children’s lives”(p. 91). She concludes by discussing how popular culture and technology are now intertwined elements in the classroom, stating that “there is an important opportunity for those in the academic community provided by this enthusiasm for new technologies” (p. 104). She cautions, however, that teaching with computers is hard and that while “our research into and understanding of children’s uses of these technologies…are only just beginning,” it is already possible to predict that “the massive commercialization of the web and its energetic targeting of elementary school children will make the more intellectually challenging uses of the internet a profound challenge in the school environment” (p. 105).
CITIES


CITIZENSHIP & CIVIC PARTICIPATION


This report discusses research conducted by the Department of Canadian Heritage concerning internet access and use. There are four specific issues addressed: (1) who is (and is not) connected to the internet; (2) how those who are connected are using the internet – either for “political empowerment” or as consumers; (3) what barriers non-users face and their levels of civic engagement; (4) internet use by ethnocultural minority groups (p. 3). The authors argue that “it is not enough that citizens have physical access to and use of information, it is crucial to examine whether citizens are able to transform this information into knowledge; and what they
do with this knowledge beyond initial communication” (p. 12). They point out, however, that “thus far, government initiatives relating to the access strategy have predominantly concentrated on the development of technological infrastructure, without taking into account that Internet access and use is not equally distributed among societal members” (p. 12). A review of academic literature leads the authors to believe that “government directives need to encourage the formation of civic engagement through the sharing of community, shared cultural values and goals” (p. 14) and that while findings show that “some Canadians are practising civic participation via e-citizenship,” many are not participating in this form of civic engagement. Even those who are connected to the internet use it “mainly for personal interest and entertainment reasons as opposed to civic and participatory ones” (p. 15).

**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Doody, Aizlewood, & Bourdeau


**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/McKinnon


**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Miller


**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Nevitte & Bilodeau


The authors address the claim that the internet has the ability to increase civic engagement and encourage greater political participation in the U.S. In light of what they feel is a lack of empirical evidence, the authors “provide an empirical test of the links between various traditional and Web-based forms of communication and political efficacy, knowledge, and participation” (p. 56). Through a telephone survey of 468 people, the researchers in the reported study investigated three research questions: “(1) Who are the citizens that use the Internet? And how do they differ from nonusers? (2) Can various types of Internet use increase levels of political information, political efficacy, and political participation among citizens? and (3) Are there differences between types of Internet use and traditional media use with respect to their impact on indicators of democratic citizenship?” (p. 62). They focus on political participation in terms of “knowledge of political issues, traditional forms of political participation, participation in public forums, and political efficacy” (p. 63) and find that the “data suggest a very limited role for the Internet in promoting levels of efficacy, knowledge, and participation among the citizenry” (p. 65).
authors conclude that “for now, the Internet’s role is limited. While it may create a subjective sense of efficaciousness among its users, the Internet does not lead to objectively measurable changes in political involvement or information” (p. 70).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Scheufele & Nisbet


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Staeheli, Ledwith, Ormond, Reed, Sumpter, & Trudeau


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Citizenship & Civic Participation/Weber

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED)


This article is based on the idea that “the many and varied initiatives in community-based development and revitalization currently flourishing in Canada under the labels of ‘social economy,’ ‘community economic development,’ or ‘alternative economics’ have deep, deep roots” (p. 13). Through stories of distressed communities in Canadian history, Cabaj demonstrates the important connection between the economic and social lives of communities and the various ways communities have worked to revitalize themselves. Initiatives described included co-operatives, local development associations, and community development corporations. Geographic communities are not the exclusive focus, and the author provides some details about the women’s movement in Canada as an example of a demographic group that fought against economic and social exclusion. In terms of current community-based initiatives, Quebec is used as an example due to its strong community-based movement.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Economic Development (CED)/Cabaj

Fontan, J-M. (n.dat.). ARUC en economie sociale.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Economic Development (CED)/Fontan (n.dat.), ARUC

Fontan, J-M. (n.dat.). Social economy and CED in Quebec.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Economic Development (CED)/Fontan (n.dat.), Social economy

This article explores “the points of convergence and divergence between the territorial approach of CED and enterprise focus of the social economy” (p. 7). Lewis lists ten social and economic tasks he feels are important to building sustainable local economies. These include such things as social supports, education, health and safety, infrastructure, accessible credit, and equity and local ownership (see all ten diagrammed and outlined on p. 8). Lisbeth Schorr’s characteristics of successful community revitalisation initiatives are summarized and linkages between CED and the social economy are discussed. Lewis concludes by calling for a combining of efforts to realise community development goals.

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Economic Development (CED)/Lewis (2004), Common ground*


Lewis uses this editorial to argue that CED is now beginning a new phase in Canada as the federal government is beginning to acknowledge the importance of the social economy. He highlights funding and commitments provided in the 2004 federal budget that address CED and the social economy and argues that, despite the fact that these investments are “modest,” they provide an opportunity that must not be missed (p. 3). He urges people to make the most of this opportunity by celebrating, communicating, educating, evaluating, innovating, and agitating (p. 3).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Economic Development (CED)/Lewis (2004), The end*


Discusses the new phrase ‘going glocal’ and its effects on how community economic development is approached. He states that going glocal “concerns the importance of local identities and cultures, the local environment, the diversity and richness of local communities, in and of themselves” and “asserts that citizens who are active participants in their own development are a critical ingredient in transitioning the globe towards a sustainable future” (p. 37). Lewis draws attention to local practices in Senegal that have not had much recognition globally and to the North American Network for the Solidarity Economy which has established ways for Canada and the U.S. to work together for CED. He argues that there are five areas in which to concentrate efforts: being a local voice within global networks; acknowledging women’s, labour, and co-operative movements; importance of fair trade markets; encouragement of the corporate social responsibility movement; and collaboration with the environmental movement (p. 39-40). A diagram linking these five concerns is provided as a visual representation of the “Key Concepts & Linkages in the Social Solidarity Economy” (p. 40).

Neamtan argues that there is current desire in Canada for a new way of living and governing ourselves and that this change requires a political process. She demonstrates how community economic development corporations, such as RESO, are indicative of a shift towards more a more inclusive perspective involving collaboration. The situation in Quebec is presented as one in which “social economy is one of the strongest and most visible progressive movements” (p. 29). Neamtan argues that social and cultural changes will only occur when people are in control, collaborating and creating alliances. Required changes she highlights include: a shift in social movements “from opposition to proposition,” a rethinking of what progressive governance is, and an increased understanding of the link between the social and economic (p. 30).


Summarizes Southwest Montreal’s transition from a devastated area that had lost its manufacturing jobs and much of its population to a region currently looking at sustainable development and continued revival. Richard explains the establishment of RESO (a community economic development organization) and its various activities. Democracy and collaboration are highlighted as keys to community economic development and the difficulty of combining social and economic initiatives is discussed. Richard argues that a multidimensional approach to CED is needed: “The revitalization of an area and a community requires an approach that is diversified, global, integrated, and comes to grips with multiple issues” (p. 24). Challenges such as managing partnerships with public agencies, attaining financial autonomy, and the institutionalization of RESO are also briefly mentioned.


The authors demonstrate how co-operatives have remained important in community-development initiatives and have been successful due to the model’s flexibility. They also ask where co-operatives fit into the broader context of community economic development. Four case studies provide examples of co-operatives in relation to community economic development and the social economy.
COMMUNITY INFORMATICS

Shade, L.R. (2004). *Community informatics*. Provides a brief introduction to the field of community informatics, followed by list of related resources.


Taylor, W. (2004). Community Informatics in Perspective. In S. Marshall, W. Taylor, & X. Yu (Eds.), *Using informatics to transform regions* (pp. 1-17). Hershey, PA: Idea Group Inc. Taylor aims to present “a taxonomic framework for CI policy development, practice and research” (p. 1). He begins with an overview of CI and its applications, addressing issues of technological determinism and the social shaping of ICTs. He also discusses features of CI initiatives including funding, partnerships, and community engagement. The importance of local and community governance is stressed. Taylor concludes with his proposed framework for CI as
a means of comparing and evaluating research. His framework “suggests that the adoption and use of ICT for community practice should be seen within a community practice paradigm. Processes for achieving this can be described in terms of a cyclical process of community building, leading to social inclusion, resulting in social mobilisation which delivers community renewal” (p. 12).


COMMUNITY NETWORKS


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Bodnar


The authors argue that changes in the context of community networks means there needs to be a rethinking of the concept. Development of the World Wide Web, establishment of network communities that communicate primarily via the Internet, and new tools for CSCW are changing the way people interact and our ideas about communities. The authors examine “defining properties of proximal communities as a touchtone for analyzing and refining the concept of community network” (p. 383). They discuss the characteristics of proximal communities and demonstrate how community networks work within such a context, with both advantages and disadvantages. In looking at the design of community networks, they “suggest that community networks be analyzed in terms of design features that can produce both positive and negative consequences” (p. 387). MOOsburg and CommunitySims are used as examples of how community networks can incorporate a sense of place and of community roles. The authors provide six design principles for community networks and offer a model that will “better analyze and differentiate community networking with respect to other concepts and paradigms in order to simultaneously focus and enrich community computing and complement and leverage other concepts and paradigms” (p. 392).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Carroll & Rosson


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Day

The authors recount experiences of the Milan Community Network (RCM) as an example of a virtual community with members tied to a particular geographic location. With this article, the authors examine the rules of behaviour as they play out “in the development of a virtual community and its Gesellschaft aspect, that is, the role played by the mutual pact stipulated and maintained through the Net” (p. 396). RCM (managed by the local university and involving cooperation with the public sector and participation of government) required all members to agree to a set of principles and netiquette. The authors examine these throughout the planning, startup, and development stages of the project, providing a strong sense of how the community network developed and the challenges it has faced. The article concludes with a statement regarding the importance of self-regulation for this virtual community and the interplay between Gesellschaft (society) and Gemeinschaft (community) that was experienced.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/De Cindio, Gentile, Grew, & Redolfi


The authors look at U.S. community networks in terms of generational differences (addressing the 1970s, 80s, and 90s) and use this analysis to suggest directions for the future of community networks in light of their dwindling numbers. The major questions addressed focus on the political ideas of community networks, commercial systems, and development of traditional networks. The approach builds on a concept from Mannheim and “views community networks as a succession of generations replacing each other, but still remaining within a common tradition” (p. 293). Each generation of community networks is examined in terms of social and cultural context as well as technological innovations, providing a history of community networks in the U.S. and current trends in commercial community information. According to the authors, “community networks need to learn and adapt, by discovering new supply gaps and closing them for as long as possible with the available means – until this is again taken over by commercial enterprises” (p. 307). They suggest three areas of possibility: merger and cooperation with commercial systems, specialization, and computer-supported cooperative community work (p. 308). European community networks are briefly discussed in terms of the broader definition of ‘community network,’ complications arising from EU politics, and social and economic realities. It is argued by the authors that “the avant-garde potential of the traditional community networks was, and according to our analysis still is, their ability to develop new and innovative ideas for socially useful applications of technology at a time when these do not attract the interest of any commercial enterprise” (p. 314).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Kubicek & Wagner


This article examines Manchester-based civic and community networks, discussing the large amount of public funding and the importance of partnerships with public agencies, universities,
and businesses. The author raises a few concerns about the public funding, such as “the overall entrepreneurial and private sector orientation of the EU’s funding policies which . . . tend to orient telematics development to the corporate sector” (p. 469). He uses this fact to argue that local social and political contexts are important factors in the how community networks develop. Especially important, yet frequently overlooked according to Myles, is the role of cultural intermediaries. In light of increasingly commercial community networks, the author argues for “a need to create alternative models for community and civic web pages” (p. 478) and concludes that “community and civic networks need to be community-led and politicized, and this means a radical rethinking of local governmental public information policy, the nature, control and constitution of ICT partnerships, and council telecommunications and public information policy itself” (p. 486).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Myles


Pinkett provides an overview of the MIT Creating Community Connections Project in a low- to moderate-income housing development. He is concerned with how community technology initiatives and community-building initiatives can be mutually supportive and build upon the work of active community members and uses the MIT project to present key issues. The main argument is that “the sociocultural constructionist framework, coupled with an asset-based approach to community technology and community building, can positively contribute to increasing community social capital and activating community cultural capital, as a result of residents’ involvement as active, rather than passive, participants in the process” (p. 367). A mixed-methods approach was used to examine the phases of project development and early results are presented. In conclusion, Pinkett elaborates on a number of suggestions for strengthening the connections between community technology and community-building work: These include developing theory, advancing research, changing practices, shifting funding, and altering policies (p. 377-378).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Pinkett


In an exploration of community networks in Canada, the author argues that “given the increasing concentration of the commercial media in Canada, the rhetoric of place-destroying globalization, and a neoliberal agenda, the original tenets of community nets are now needed more than ever” (n. pag.). The history of community networks is presented and the Canadian government’s ICT initiatives discussed in relation to the goals and values of community networks. A brief overview of community informatics and international initiatives provides insight into current trends in the field. The article concludes with the author’s arguments that the public needs to be meaningfully included in public policy and that more evaluation of government-funded programs is needed.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Shade (2002)

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Shade (2003)


The author presents a framework for research based on the idea that “community networks must be analyzed as artifacts shaped within particular systems of social organization (or social structure), and it is here that explanations for variations in technological form and function must be sought” (p. 339). As an introduction to the journal issue, this article provides an overview of factors important in community network research and an introduction to current scholarship.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Community Networks/Venkatesh

CULTURAL POLICY


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/Cowl


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/De Santis


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/Foote


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/Kirpitchenko (2001)


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/Neice*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cultural Policy/Stanley*

**CYBER CAFES & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES**


Argues that “a case study of cybercafés in Mexico in relation to a new publicly funded connectivity program, and qualitative data from this horizon elsewhere in the region, suggest Latin American social and political elites share no significant commitment to digital inclusion policies in their respective national spaces.” Distinguishes between cybercafes (which provide internet access), and telecentres (which also offer training and are explicitly linked to the community they serve). Robinson reviews the telecommunications, and specifically Internet, expansion in the region within the context of political shifts and how various groups figure in public policy and negotiations of power. His purpose is to present the issues that affect community networking initiatives in the region. These include policy, the role of institutions, regional and state economies, telecommunications monopolies, power struggles between political parties and NGOs, telecentre sustainability, etc. He demonstrates how some of these issues have played out by describing a survey of cybercafes that found “users, in fragile businesses without community buy in or official support, are less interested in learning, and much more motivated to what is playful and entertaining.” He concludes that the region is at a turning point that will require new ways of approaching community networking.

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cyber Cafes & Community Resource Centres/Robinson*


In this article, Uotinen examines the information society strategy of an eastern province of Finland (North Karelia) and elaborates on two elements of the strategy, the Community Resource Centre (CRC) and its internet café NetCafé. The purpose of this paper is to “introduce people’s local interpretations and opinions, not only about the NetCafé but also about information technology, its use and meanings” (p. 339). After discussing the experiences of CRC and NetCafé as expressed by local participants in interviews, Uotinen argues that “the space given to
IT in people’s lives is not as great, or achieved as straightforwardly, as the information society rhetoric has led us to expect (although the influence of this rhetoric is noticeable in people’s opinions and words)” (p. 352).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Cyber Cafes & Community Resource Centres/Uotinen

DEVELOPMENT


This chapter looks back at the two years following the first ‘magic box’ paper and examines the principles of effective ICT interventions. The authors reiterate the importance of local appropriation of ICTs despite the small number of documented cases of appropriation of ICTs for development purposes and argue for field-based research in the area. The authors outline the principles for ICT interventions from the original paper (including guidelines for measuring impact, vital-ness in terms of development, focus on benefits of technologies rather than quantity, and strategic content requirements) and examine how those have developed in the years since the paper. They argue that the four principles are still relevant and conclude that as communities work to appropriate technologies for their needs, “the responsibility is now on development agencies to make these technologies available and to learn from local communities how to provide the right mechanisms for local appropriation to take place” (p. 23).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Bachelor & O’Farrell


This article focuses on the connection between telecommunications implementation and economic growth, looking at the density of telephones in various countries to determine if increased density encourages equality and increased incomes, especially for the rural poor. The statistical analysis suggests that ICTs have historically been, and continue to be, a “force for divergence” both within and between countries (p. 642). The authors argue, however, that possibilities to change this situation exist and that telephony could become a useful tool for development in specific circumstances. In terms of the Internet, the authors believe that a successful strategy that would improve rather than exacerbate existing inequalities would be very expensive and is perhaps not an appropriate priority.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Forestier, Grace, & Kenny

This article presents an analysis of sub-Saharan government websites in order to examine how nations use the Internet to construct self-images of national identity within the context of the currently contested idea of ‘nation.’ The use of the Internet and technologies in Africa is discussed and the textual analysis of websites outlined. The authors are critical of post-colonial and Internet research and conclude that “computer-mediated communication in a globalizing economy does not automatically transcend old categories such as nation and the nationstate, as many cybertheorists hope, but may reinforce them and fill them with new, corporate, meaning” (p. 208).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Fursich & Robins


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Holohan


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Negroponte


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Press, Foster, Wolcott, & McHenry


This article examines the situation of Africa in terms of internet connectivity and global trends towards a ‘New World’ in which Africa risks being left behind. Sonaike provides a detailed account of the digital divide in Africa and discusses barriers to improved connectivity and use. It is argued that “the ultimate challenge facing the African continent then, in this age of the Internet, is how to get the most out of the new medium without derailing existing development priorities” (p. 43) and Sonaike concludes the article with suggestions for improving the situation. These include building infrastructure, acknowledgement of existing African initiatives, central planning, attention to age and the potential of youth, research and development, and selective delinking between the North and South (p. 53-58).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Sonaike

This file contains the preface and introduction to a book that contains detailed programme descriptions as a means of sharing best practices information between countries about ICT implementation and the information society. According to the introduction to the book, there are some common elements of successful ICT implementation and these are outlined briefly. They are: policy formation, intermediaries acting as knowledge-brokers, open dialogue and active participation, improving education and access to education, improving gender equality in access to ICTs, and developing information resources and knowledge networks, and private sector partnerships.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/UNDP

Note: The title page for this publication can be found in the file Title Page located in the BSCW directory Literature Review/Development/UNDP Report Files. The best practices and country profiles contained in this book can be found in the same directory, organized by country name. The countries are:
- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Poland
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia-Montenegro-Kosovo
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan


The central argument of this article is that empowerment, in terms of its role in participatory development, needs to be understood in a broad context where universal human rights are the ultimate goal. The author reviews important approaches to development and changes in the field.
Social and dissident movements are also discussed and the importance of gender issues in development research is argued. The article concludes with a call for “a kind of research which follows through the history of interventions, movements and people’s organizations and which sees how this has been organized and sustained over a long period of time” (p. 23).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/White


Wu defines Canada, South Korea, the Netherlands, and Sweden as leading markets in telecommunications convergence based on statistics detailing Internet subscriber rates, availability of Internet content, and high use of broadband services [the U.S. was also among this group but is not discussed in this paper]. These four countries are then compared in terms of telephony markets and regulation, video programming distribution (including webcasting), broadband Internet services and competition for markets. After explaining the telecommunications situation of each nation under the categories above, Wu examines the different policy and regulatory approaches. This examination covers a number of areas, including: responsible government institutions, government and private ownership of telecommunications companies, foreign ownership, network access and competition, and public broadcasting and domestic content. In conclusion, Wu attempts to make some preliminary statements about broadcasting, telecommunications and Internet convergence as it is still at an early stage. It is argued “convergence is resulting in a re-definition of the relevant government authorities and their mandates” (p. 93) and is requiring a rethinking of network access issues. Wu also points out that content issues are becoming increasingly complicated as Internet content is not being defined as broadcasting. According to the author, ownership is not yet considered an important issue for debate in convergence of services.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Development/Wu

**DIGITAL CULTURE & THE INTERNET**


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Culture & the Internet/Bowker


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Culture & the Internet/Fortin & Sanderson

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Culture & the Internet/Ito*

**DIGITAL DIVIDE & ACCESS**

Australian Government. (2003). Discussion paper: Maintaining the viability of online access centres in regional, rural and remote Australia. Canberra: Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Australian Government*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Boudeau (2001), Canadian access*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Boudeau (2001), A segmentation analysis*


The authors report on ethnographic research that aimed to determine how computer users with various levels of access and competency experience the digital divide. Various discursive patterns were found in how people talked about computers and the authors argue that the themes that emerged, with individualism as the dominant theme, limited participants’ abilities to envision alternatives and that the discourse of individualism in particular “constrains the public debates of the digital divide” (p. 532). Critical ethnography and narrative analysis are explained and the sample of six families that was interviewed is presented in detail. In the analysis of their findings, the authors explain that “educational benefits, technological determinism and consumer choice were all narrative themes that emerged and were secondary to individualism” (p. 539) and that even contradictory comments by participants can be seen as “an echo of contradictions that have long been at the heart of corporate advertising and current social policies regarding computers” (p. 545).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Clark & Demont-Heinrich*

In light of the increasing implementation of ICTs in everyday life, the authors “seek to develop and apply a pragmatic model of access to the ICI [information/communication infrastructure] which respects and embraces public interest perspectives” (p. 2). Following a detailed discussion of what ‘access’ is, the Access Rainbow model is presented as a tool with we can better understand and analyze access issues. Each layer of the Rainbow is discussed briefly prior to a demonstration of how the Access Rainbow has been applied in technology implementation and policy contexts. The authors conclude that “a major design challenge now facing policy makers is to specify a multifaceted architecture for developing network technologies that takes all seven elements of the Rainbow model into account and affords access to everyone by virtue of their membership in society” (p. 18).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Clement & Shade (2000), The access rainbow*


Table accompanying “Chapter X: The Access Rainbow: Conceptualizing universal access to the information/communications infrastructure” (file Clement & Shade (2000), The access rainbow in the same directory). Provides a summary of the layers of the rainbow including a description, some examples, and a list of essential aspects of each layer.

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Clement & Shade (2000), Overview table*


Image accompanying “Chapter X: The Access Rainbow: Conceptualizing universal access to the information/communications infrastructure” (file Clement & Shade (2000), The access rainbow in the same directory).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Clement & Shade (2000), Access rainbow image*

In this article, Couldry uses the concept of ‘discursive design’ to examine the Internet as an information space and purposely distances the discussion from the concept of ‘digital divide’. It is argued that the ‘digital divide’ approach is limiting, especially when looking at the Internet as a possible public and civic space. The concept of ‘digital divide’ is discussed as it has figured in political discourse and research and discursive design is presented as an entry-point for discussion about the possibilities of Internet space. This approach leads Couldry to pose questions about Internet space in terms of the following issues: convergence, who converges, deliberation, public action, relations to the state, and long-term patterns of practice. He concludes that “the Internet, as information space, raises urgent and still unanswered questions not just for information science, but for political science, sociology and ethics as well” (p. 97).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Couldry


This study reports on the digital divide over a three-year period, updating previous studies, Dual Digital Divide (2000) and Rethinking the Dual Digital Divide (2001). Issues such as levels of internet access and use, barriers to access, and predictors of access and use are examined with reference to statistical data and written reports and articles from academia, industry, and government. Data is presented on internet access and use among various groups of Canadians. It is argued that “while the Internet and how it is being used has matured and become more sophisticated over the past few years, there has been a lag in revisiting the concordance of social policy with this” (p. 31). In conclusion, the broader context of the digital divide is highlighted, including issues of literacy, social capital, social and economic development, and social cohesion. In terms of the role of government, the authors call for “a constant rethinking of policy and regulatory initiatives in response to the dynamic changes in the market and communities” (p. 42). They identify a number of priorities, including “social and cultural content development; economic policy initiatives (including market stabilization, protecting the property rights of the market); support for public information intermediaries; support for institutions and organizations involved in human, social capital and, social and economic infrastructure development” (p. 42).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/EKOS


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Georgiadou


Gunkel provides a critical examination of the concept of digital divide in order to reveal the “preconditions of the digital divide, trace their history and rationale, and project the direction of their future examination” (p. 501). The terminology, structure, and form of the concept are examined. Gunkel argues that it is important to “delimit the range of possible denotations [of the
The concept of digital divide and to assist digital divide discourse in understanding the complexity and nuances of the various problems that have been collected under this appellation” (p. 516). He also concludes that we must “ensure that examinations of the digital divide do not proceed blindly, but understand the structure and consequences necessarily imposed by their own problematic” and that we understand how technological determinism is implicated in digital divide discourses (p. 517).

**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Gunkel


In this article, the authors argue for the need to include ethical considerations in digital divide research to ensure that the research does not simply follow political agendas, making it more useful for policy development. Digital divide statistics from the U.S. are presented and discussed in light of ethical issues. Global statistics are also discussed briefly. According to the authors, “there are three levels to the digital divide debates that tend to get muddled together – statistical analysis, values arguments, and political policies” (p. 108). They conclude that “by building moral reasoning into the process of conducting digital divide research and linking such research to policy debates, it will be possible to accomplish more valid research, better and more focused debates about the significance of empirical findings, and policies that are less subservient to political ideologies and are more oriented to serving collective goods” (p. 113).

**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Hacker & Mason


This paper examines the notion of the digital divide [acknowledging it as access to technology and “crucially bound up with debates about social exclusion, economic regeneration of deprived areas and the breakdown of social capital and community relations” (p. 1)], and explores community informatics (CI) initiatives as they have been the basis for a number of policy attempts to challenge the divide. It comprises a review of CI initiatives from around the world with the aim to inform policy and determine what is known about how electronically networked communities improve the lives of those in “deprived communities,” what type of research exists about CI initiatives, and what research remains to be done (p. 2). The main question guiding the review was: “What value do information and communication technologies (ICTs) have for community economic and social regeneration?” (p. 3).

**Location:** (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Loader & Keeble


This report examines ICT access and use by Canadian high-school students. Examining data from three surveys, the authors conclude that a digital divide exists in Canadian schools. The
authors argue that divisions between users and non-users are not useful in this context because the majority of Canadian students are computers users. They find, instead, that there are important differences within the group of computer users. They found that rural youth, girls, and youth with parents with a lower level of education are less likely to have access to computers at home and that girls and those with parents with lower levels of education have lower competency levels and spend less time on the computer.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Looker & Thiessen


This paper is a report of the analysis of the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) policy initiative. The DOT Force’s final report is analyzed along with its production processes and various iterations. McSorley concludes from his analysis that “the narrative of the digital divide that is constructed in the DOT Force process performs political work through the extension and renewal of an action-oriented ‘secular salvation story’ of technoscientific globalization” (p. 85). For McSorley, this is an example of how the concept of the digital divide can work as a resource through which various interests can reconfigure the issues.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/McSorley


Paré argues that the digital divide concept sets up an inappropriate duality between those with access and those without and that “the ‘the’ conveys a flawed view of what are, in fact, a compendium of interrelated social, economic, and technological considerations that influence Internet access and use” (n. pag.). By examining the activities of SMEs in 8 developing countries, Paré demonstrates that it is important to consider not only access to technology and infrastructure, but also what people want to do with technologies and how they currently use them. He concludes that “policy choices and programmes must be made in accordance with the motivations of technology users, not on abstract assessments of technological potential and its supposedly uniform imperatives and impacts” (n. pag.).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Pare


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Prakash


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Rao
In this paper, the authors examine what they consider three separate digital divides – user/nonuser, veteran/recent, and continuing/dropout – with respect to the Internet and mobile phones. Based on data from a 2000 national telephone survey in the U.S., they argue that a number of gaps represented by these three divides have closed (such as gender and race in terms of the user/nonuser divide) but that a number still exist. According to the data analysis, factors that continue to be associated with digital divides include income, age, work status, marital status, education, and gender in terms of the veteran/recent divide. In conclusion, the authors point to the fact that “while the national survey data from 2000 suggest that Internet and mobile phone usage rates were quite similar, in fact there is considerable divergence in usage patterns and demographic and media influences on those usage patterns” (p. 619). They hope that their analysis will “increase scholarly and policy concern about, study of, and development of social action programs involving mobile phone technology” and that “policymakers and researchers might have improved justifications, choices and strategies available for narrowing the several digital divides” (p. 620).


Taking the notion of digital divide as central to recent discussions of and research on ICTs, this study “places the Digital Divide in perspective, quantifies how big it is and examines how it is evolving” while focusing primarily on the Internet and income (p. 1). Sciadas acknowledges that a number of digital divides exist based on various demographic factors and depending on the technology in question. After a discussion of quantitative data pertaining to income and Internet use, Sciadas concludes that “understanding barriers to access and use of new technologies remains important” and that “numerous other factors [besides income] are at play, many of which change over time due to the evolution of the technologies, falling prices, social norms and much more” (p. 6).


Selwyn examines the non-use of information technologies in this paper in order to fill a gap in research that tends to focus on technology users while pathologizing non-use. In order to develop a more nuanced understanding of people’s non-use of technologies, he examines explanations for why people are non-users (those considered peripheral or excluded). It is argued that there is a need to reconceptualize non-use of technologies since existing discourses rest on a number of misleading assumptions. Accordingly, he argues that “what is missing from many existing accounts of non-use of ICT is a focus on the individual and granting to the individual of a degree
of agency in their non-use of ICT” (p. 107). He concludes that the examination of everyday life experiences of individuals must be a part of research on technology and society.


In this article, Selwyn provides a theoretical look at the digital divide and considers “four theoretical and conceptual limitations to conventional notions of the digital divide in terms of individuals with and without ‘access’ to ICT” (p. 343). These four limitations are: what is meant by ICT, what is meant by access, the relationship between access to and use of ICT, and the consequences of engagement with ICT (p. 346). After discussing each of these areas, Selwyn reconsiders and reconstructs the notion of digital divide “as a hierarchy of access to various forms of technology in various contexts, resulting in differing levels of engagement and consequences” (p. 351). He presents four stages in the digital divide: formal/theoretical access, effective access and use, engagement, and outcomes and consequences. In conclusion, he argues that “it is of utmost importance that academics, politicians, practitioners and all other stakeholders in the information age adopt a more sophisticated and realistic view of the digital divide and the range of inequalities that currently exist in ICT-based opportunities, uptake, engagement and outcomes” (p. 357). He stresses his hope that this article provides a starting point from which to engage in “robust survey-based and in-depth qualitative work which begins to unpack the complexities of the digital divide” (p. 358).


In this paper, Shade applies the Access Rainbow in order to understand how access to technologies is understood. Following this discussion of the meaning of access, the notion of ‘digital divide’ is examined in terms of social, global, and democratic divides and measurement of the digital divide is discussed. Within the context of Canadian public policy on ICTs, Shade makes three recommendations: “1) reconceptualize ICT policy towards social policy; 2) pay attention to Internet access in light of heightened media concentration in Canada; and 3) provide more support for qualitative based research that examines how people are using the Internet in their everyday lives” (p. 10). Each of these recommendation is discussed with reference to Canadian policy and research.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Shade

The authors report on a study of new technologies in rural communities in Australia, implemented under the federal program *Networking the Nation*. The stated purpose of the paper is to “problematise the criterion of ‘sustainability’ as it applies to public access points” and to demonstrate the need for a re-conceptualization of sustainability and effectiveness in this context (p. 324). The authors discuss two case study evaluations of public access sites, focusing on purpose, location, community engagement, ongoing maintenance, and competing interests in order to highlight issues of sustainability. It is argued that while the federal funding program was short-term with the expectation that the access points would become self-sustaining, “such a benchmark for determining the success of a public access point may be inequitable and limited” since generation of income is not always compatible with project goals (p. 335). The authors conclude,

the provision of public access points in rural communities needs to be reconceptualised as an essential community infrastructure, like schools and libraries, rather than as an economic development strategy. If this is accepted, then sustainability should be measured in terms of effectiveness of community engagement with the service rather than in terms of the economic self-sufficiency of individual public access points. (p. 336)

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Simpson, Daws, & Pini*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Stanley*


Summary of the major findings in the 2003 Household Internet Use Survey. Some highlights:
- The number of Canadian households connected to the internet is still growing, but growth is slowing (p. 2).
- There was an increase in users with high-speed access (p. 2).
- Changes in use of internet included an increase in searching for health-related information and online banking, but a decrease in downloading music (p. 2).
- The highest levels of Internet use were in British Columbia, Ontario, and Alberta (p. 3).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Statistics Canada*


Zinnbauer uses this article to “speculate on the impact of the global digital divide with regard to participation of non-state actors in global governance processes” in the hope that “drawing attention to some of the political and economic co-ordinates that impact on how non-state actors can harness ICT for participation in global governance regimes, contributes to a more integrative and sustained policy agenda that goes beyond mere resource mobilization” (n.pag.). In conclusion, it is argued that
the digital divide and the question how to channel the novel information technologies for human development could be a welcome opportunity to revisit some more fundamental structural asymmetries…and hence to reinvigorate a policy debate that moves beyond simplistic ideas of open markets and limited resource transfers as sufficient guarantors to reap the benefits of technological advances on an equitable basis. (n.pag.)

**Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Zinnbauer**

**EDUCATION & LEARNING**


**Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Education & Learning/Moll & Robertson**


**Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Education & Learning/Wortley**

**FEMINISM & GENDER**


Findings from an evaluation of a research project addressing rural Australian women’s access to communication technologies are discussed in this paper. Lennie summarizes the research project “Enhancing Rural Women’s Access to Interactive Communication Technologies” and outlines the feminist participatory action research approach taken by the researchers before providing readers with a detailed account of her evaluation and critique of the project. An interdisciplinary framework of evaluation based on “praxis feminist and feminist poststructuralist theories and methods” and encompassing “various theories of technology, gender, social relations, power, empowerment, and communication” (p. 291) is discussed and the evaluative methods used are summarized. Lennie then presents some findings of the evaluation and argues that there were “contradictory and regulating effects” (p. 304) for the women participating in the project’s online components and that these must be taken into account even though the project was seen to have met many women’s needs. She concludes that “feminist assumptions about the emancipatory effects of women’s use of ICTs…clearly need to be examined more carefully and critically” and “factors other than gender need to be taken into account in feminist research into women’s use of ICTs to avoid making essentialist conclusions” (p. 304).

**Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Feminism & Gender/Lennie**

The authors “address the question of sustainability by asking the perhaps more fundamental question of how to create an environment which enables women’s and community organizations to sustain themselves” (p. 529) by examining the experiences of the Women Connect project in the UK. They argue that “funding models that require working to short-term product-orientated outcomes, which predominate within the voluntary sector in the absence of core funding, actively inhibit the development and maintenance of learning communities” (p. 530). A detailed account of the Women Connect approach is provided and concepts such as ‘learning community’ and ‘community’ itself are examined. The discussion of ‘community’ is especially helpful as it outlines common definitions and assumptions found in community informatics and community development literature. They conclude that “online communities need to be built, and that this requires political courage, as well as active facilitation” (p. 550) and that the field of community informatics needs to advance a feminist approach involving ‘learning communities.’ This brings them to address funding trends and argue that “the creation and maintenance of a learning community seems, to us, to be actively at cross-purposes with this product-driven model [of funding]; learning communities are processes, not products, and they are inherently open processes at that” (p. 551).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Feminism & Gender/Page & Scott*


Vargas discusses how globalization is affecting social movements in both positive and negative ways, focusing specifically on how “different feminisms are contributing their multiple experiences and relations” to the re-articulation social movements within the context of alternative globalization (p. 908). She argues that a ‘new dynamics of feminist activity’ now exists in which there is “an explicit combination of the agendas of diverse collectives and multiple autonomies” (p. 910) and she analyses the World Social Forum from this perspective. For Vargas, the World Social Forum is “a pluralist space favouring alternative globalization, in which many of the new strategies and preoccupations of the globalized social movements, like the feminist one, come together” as well as “a complex site for connections with other movements, whose orientation towards feminists is not always unambiguous” (p. 910). In examining the World Social Forum, Vargas finds that new strategies and interpretations are developing in the re-thinking of social movements. She concludes that new orientations broaden the spectrum of feminist action and permit it to advance from struggles for the democratization of gender relations, so as to feed into anti-racist, and anti-homophobic struggles, movements for economic justice, for a healthy planet, for symbolic cultural transformation, etc. This increasing tendency to recover a transversal perspective – the intersection of gender and multiple other democratic, political and cultural struggles that raise not only women’s but also multiple other social movements – is one of the most profound and promising changes. (p. 918)

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Feminism & Gender/Page & Scott*
FIRST NATIONS

Author unknown. (n.dat.). KNET Resources.

A list of papers, reports, presentations and other resources and documentation related to the K-Net project. Each listed items has a corresponding link to the online version.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/First Nations/Author unknown


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/First Nations/Pannekoek

GENERAL RESOURCES


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/General Resources/shade_econ


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/General Resources/SRA

GLOBALIZATION


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Globalization/Deibert


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Globalization/Latham & Sassen (2004), Table of contents

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Globalization/Latham & Sassen (2004), Digital formations


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Globalization/UNDP

INTERNATIONAL PAPERS


Presents the situation of Latin American countries with respect to technology use and skills, as well as a brief overview of migration from the Latin American Second World to the First World of Canada and the US. Robinson follows this by proposing “a novel use of ICT to link the First and Second worlds; that is, the creation of telecenters using satellite or local Internet service provider (ISP) Internet connections linked with microbanks providing digital remittance services while offering a set of generic financial, communication, education, informational, and even e-commerce resources (www.idrc.ca/pan/telecentres.html).” Recent trends that point to the possible success of this proposal (such as implementation of satellite services in the region) are presented as well as possible challenges including resistance from the backing industry and a lack of commitment from regulatory bodies in the region.

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/International Papers/Robinson (2000)


PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH & EVALUATION METHODOLOGY


The authors discuss the evaluation of an ICT-implementation project in rural India. A mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods were used to gather data and develop a case study with aim to “(a) to explore local information needs in depth and to establish a baseline of living standards, information access and media use; and (b) to promote community participation in and awareness of the project” (p. 351). Detailed information is provided about the project methods and the region in which the project was implemented. The results reported include details on media use and ownership, from telephone and postal mail to mass media. The researchers found that an information gap between what people want to know and what information is available exists in agriculture and the authors argue that agriculture is “such a prominent aspect of the social and economic organization of this region and therefore the most promising area for ICTs to have an impact on communities” (p. 359). The authors argue that communications services are needed in the region but warn that “unless deliberately designed otherwise, ICT projects may exacerbate the informational divide in the presence of strong social stratification, but in ways that might not have been anticipated” (p. 361). They conclude that local relevance of communications applications is needed: “The emphasis is not on the technology, but on feasible ways to enhance the community’s information and communication capacity through the use of ICT (technology as a means, not an end in itself)” (p. 363).


David reports the results of a study of distance learning packages delivered through telecenters in southwest Britain. Ethnographic and interview methods were used to research these training packages and to examine communication breakdowns.


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/Lennie, Hatcher, & Morgan*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/Lennie & Hearn*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/O’Neil*

Stillman, L. (2004). What can we expect of evaluation in evaluating geographic and virtual communities?

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/Stillman*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/Tacchi*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Participatory Research & Evaluation Methodology/Tacchi, Slater, & Hearn*

POLICY & GOVERNANCE


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Policy & Governance/MacLean


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Policy & Governance/Nicol (note: large file)


In this article, Wyatt examines various metaphors used to describe the Internet in *Wired* magazine and argues that such use of language is important because it affects public and policy discussions. Accordingly, she states, “metaphors are thus not only descriptive; they may provide clues to the design intentions of those who use them and, as such, they may help to shape the cognitive framework within which such actors operate” (p. 244). Metaphors from 1998 and 2002 issues of *Wired* are reviewed, revealing recurring themes such as “revolution, evolution, salvation, progress, universalism, and the ‘American dream’” (p. 257). She concludes that “metaphors can mediate between structure and agency, but it is actors who choose to repeat old metaphors and introduce new ones. Thus, it is important to continue to monitor the metaphors at work to understand exactly what work it is that they are doing” (p. 258).

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Policy & Governance/Wyatt

POLITICAL ECONOMY & MEDIA OWNERSHIP


Mansell calls for more rigorous political economic analyses in new media and internet studies, acknowledging the work of Golding and Murdock in pushing at media studies and their insistence on a more political economic analysis rather than research that focuses on individuals and functionalism. Mansell “sets out a case for a revitalization of political economy of media and communication” to take into account particularly issues of new media production and consumption. She suggests that political economy “can account for particular historical circumstances in which older and now new media have been produced under capitalism; including social and policy events”; that political economy “should look at how power is structured and differentiated, where the sources of power come from, and how such power is maintained….and also suggest alternatives…”; and that “theoretically, new media/internet studies needs to engage with disciplines outside of media and communication studies.”

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Political Economy & Media Ownership/Mansel

Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Political Economy & Media Ownership/McChesney & Schiller

SOCIAL CAPITAL & SOCIAL COHESION


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Social Capital & Social Cohesion/Aizlewood & Pendakur


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Social Capital & Social Cohesion/Chassay & Case


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Social Capital & Social Cohesion/Edwards


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Social Capital & Social Cohesion/Van Rooy*


Warschauer argues in this paper that it is important to address social capital in studies of computer and Internet use, as it is one key link between access to ICTs and access to the information society. The notion of ‘social capital’ is defined as “the capacity of individuals to accrue benefits by dint of their personal relationships and memberships in particular social networks and structures” (n.pag.) and examples from India, Brazil, and the U.S. are used to demonstrate the relationship between social capital and Internet use. It is argued that social capital can be promoted by ICTs through the micro-, meso-, and macro-levels. The micro- and macro-levels are discussed in detail with the micro-level section addressing virtual communities and community informatics and the macro-level section encompassing governance and democracy issues. Warschauer concludes that “community technology programs that seek to promote social inclusion and lessen the poor’s marginalization need to be structured so as to leverage and expand social capital” and that “promotion of social capital must be part of a broader strategy of social and economic reform to heighten human and social capacity and remove institutional barriers to development” (n.pag.).

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Digital Divide & Access/Warschauer*

*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Social Capital & Social Cohesion/Warschauer*

**TECHNOLOGY: BROADBAND, WIRELESS, etc.**


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Technology: Broadband, Wireless, etc./Dutton, Gillett, McKnight, & Peltu*


*Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/Technology: Broadband, Wireless, etc./Openflows Networks*

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS)


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/Padovani & Tuzzi


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/Raboy


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/Shaping information societies


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/Sreberny


Location: (BSCW) Literature Review/World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)/Zhao