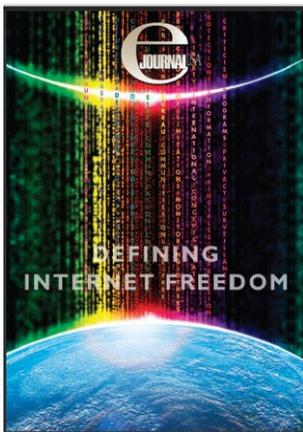


Internet Freedom

Free Expression in the Digital Age

eJournal: Defining Internet Freedom



Speaking in January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton likened the spread of Internet-driven information networks to “a new nervous system for our planet.” “In many respects,” she continued, “information has never been so free.” But also “we’ve seen a spike in threats to the free flow of information.” How different governments and societies confront these new and transforma-

tive technologies is the subject of this e-Journal USA.

The first part of this journal addresses the difficulty agreeing on a universally applicable definition of Internet freedom. Nations impose many different kinds of restrictions. Some represent the efforts of authoritarian regimes to repress their opponents, but others instead reflect diverse political traditions and cultural norms.

Other materials survey the current state of ‘net freedom in different parts of the world. Freedom House, a leading non-governmental organization, has studied government efforts to control, regulate, and censor different forms of electronic social communication. Its findings are explained here.

We also explore a number of issues that help define the con-

tours of Internet freedom. The term “intermediary liability” may not pique one’s interest, but it assumes new relevance phrased as whether YouTube is liable for an offensive video posted by a third party. From dancing babies to public libraries, the issues that will delimit global citizens’ access to information are being contested every day.

—The Editors

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov/defining_internet_freedom.html)

A free hard copy of this publication is available for the first 15 requestors. Please submit your request to: ircjakarta@state.gov

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

President Obama, among his first acts in office, issued on January 21 a memorandum which said: “The Freedom of Information Act should be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt openness prevails.”

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), enacted in 1966 and re-

vised over the years, allows individuals and organizations (including non-U.S. citizens and groups) to request access to unpublished documents held by the executive branch of the federal government without having to provide a reason for the request. The law, which applies to all agencies in the executive branch of government, is

administered by the Department of Justice.

Since its inception, FOIA has become a popular tool of inquiry for journalists, scholars, businesses, lawyers, consumers and environmental groups. For more details on FOIA, please visit <http://www.america.gov/foia.html>

Books, articles, and websites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

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Special Point of Interest

In the United States, public libraries are an important source of Internet access. Librarian help defend intellectual freedom and work to balance intellectual property rights with public access to Internet content. Source: <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/July/20100727142800enelrahc0.7130854.html>

Internet Freedom Essential to Human Rights, Economic Prosperity Secretary Clinton Defines U.S. Policy on Upholding Internet Freedom



Washington — Internet freedom is essential to upholding human rights and encouraging economic prosperity, and the United States plans to aggressively promote Internet access for all peoples, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"We stand for a single Internet where all of humanity has equal access to knowledge and ideas," Clinton said in a groundbreaking foreign policy speech delivered January 21 at Washington's Newseum.

She linked the freedom to use the Internet without government obstruction to basic human rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Having the freedom to connect to the Internet, she said, "is like the freedom of assembly, only in cyberspace."

Clinton compared the efforts of some governments to deny their citizens unfettered Internet access to the construction of the Berlin Wall. "Virtual walls are cropping up in place of visible walls," she said.

"Some countries have erected electronic barriers that prevent their people from accessing portions of the world's networks," Clinton said. "They have expunged words, names and phrases from search-engine results.

"They have violated the privacy of citizens who engage in nonviolent political speech. These actions contravene the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which tells us that all people have the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of

frontiers."

While praising the "brave citizen journalists" in Iran who have used cell-phone video to tell the world about brutal repression in their country, Clinton also noted that "free expression has its limits."

"We do not tolerate those who incite others to violence, such as the agents of al-Qaida who are at this moment using the Internet to promote the mass murder of innocent people across the world. And hate speech that targets individuals on the basis of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation is reprehensible," the secretary said.

The Internet, Clinton said, is a valuable tool in promoting social justice. She gave the example of an unemployed engineer in Colombia who used the Internet to bring together more than 12 million people in 190 cities around the world to demonstrate against the FARC terrorist movement. In Mexico, a private citizen using e-mail was able to mobilize some 150,000 people to demonstrate against drug-related violence. And in India, a 13-year-old boy using online social networks was able to organize blood drives for the victims of terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Thanks to affordable technology, there are some 4 billion cell phones being used around the world, even in the poorest sectors of society, Clinton said. "Information networks have become a great leveler," Clinton said, "and we should use them together to lift people out of poverty and give them freedom from want."

The secretary noted that when President Obama visited China in November 2009, he publicly defended the right of people to freely access information and said that the more freely information flows, the stronger societies become.

"He spoke about how access to information helps citizens hold their own governments accountable, generates new ideas, encourages creativity and entrepreneurship," she said.

When asked about efforts by the Chinese government to censor and control American technology companies operating inside its borders, Clinton said the Obama administration is engaged in "very candid and constructive conversation with the Chinese government." She added: "We have had a positive year of very open discussions with our Chinese counterparts."

The Obama administration, Clinton said, is reinvigorating the Global Internet Freedom Task Force as a forum for addressing threats to Internet freedom around the world.

"We are urging U.S. media companies to take a proactive role in challenging foreign governments' demands for censorship and surveillance. The private sector has a shared responsibility to help safeguard free expression," she said. "And when their business dealings threaten to undermine this freedom, they need to consider what's right, not simply what's a quick profit."

The Obama administration, she said, is "encouraged" by the work currently being done by the Global Network Initiative, which is a voluntary effort by technology companies — along with nongovernmental organizations, academic experts and social-investment funds — to respond to government requests for censorship. She announced that as a part of the U.S. government commitment to support responsible private-sector engagement on information freedom, the State Department will hold a high-level meeting next month to bring together firms that provide network services for talks about Internet freedom.

(By Jane Morse, staff writer, America.gov)

Source: <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/January/20100121130421ajesrom0.9331629.html>

Full remarks is accessible at: <http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/January/20100121142618eaifas0.6585352.html>



FEATURES ON INTERNET FREEDOM FROM AMERICA.GOV



Internet Freedom Essential to Human Rights, Economic Prosperity

is essential to upholding human rights and encouraging economic prosperity.

In a major foreign policy speech, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton outlined the U.S. commitment to Internet freedom, which she said

For more details, please visit <http://www.america.gov/internet-freedom.html>



The Power of Mobile Phone

Global penetration of mobile phones — especially in areas without Internet access — creates new ways for people to connect, make a difference, and motivate peers to take action. To know more

about the power of mobile phone such as multi-purposes, accessible, widespread, attainable, affordable and empowering is available at http://www.america.gov/mobile_phone.html



Cybersecurity

Cyber intruders probe for access to critical infrastructures worldwide, but public-private cooperation, international engagement will help refine defenses. Please find more information

and articles on global cyberattacks and how to improve cybersecurity at <http://www.america.gov/cybersecurity.html>



Defending Press Freedom

Brave men and women risk their lives every day to inform citizens and hold governments accountable. Find out more about these champions of press freedom and share your thoughts. Find

out from Freedom House, a nonprofit organization and voice for democracy around the world, analyzes the status of press freedom in nations throughout the world. Please visit <http://www.america.gov/journalism-siege.html>



Internet Censorship

Expert debate the business of internet freedom. Brooklyn Law School professor Derek E. Bambauer argues that how laws are made affects their legitimacy and University of Chicago Law

School professor Richard A. Epstein counters that morality is the same everywhere. Immoral laws should not be obeyed. To know more who's right in this topic, please go to http://www.america.gov/-exchange_internet.html

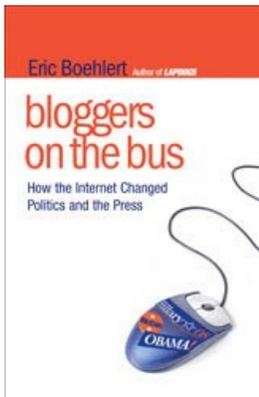


Protecting Religious Freedom without Limiting Free Speech

The International Religious Freedom report is submitted to Congress annually by the Department of State in compliance with Section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998. This report supplements the

most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. It includes individual country chapters on the status of religious freedom worldwide. If you want to hear from American experts and share your thoughts below. http://www.america.gov/religious_freedom.html

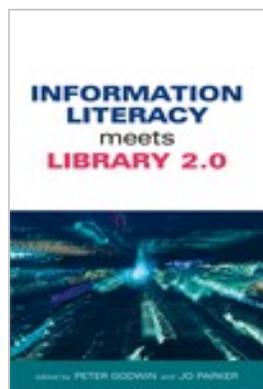
IRC BOOKS



Bloggers on the Bus : How the Internet Changed Politics and the Press in 2008 / Eric Boehlert. New York : Free Press, 2009.

Ever since radio entered the American private home, technology has shaped political campaign strategy. Radio brought candidates more intimately and vividly into citizens' lives than newspapers could. The televised presidential debate of 1960 -- in which a strapping John F. Kennedy embarrassed a clammy Richard M. Nixon -- was technology's next coup. In the last decade, though, it is the internet that has radically changed the way that candidates campaign: social networking sites, YouTube, and blogs have become important vehicles for political activism. And the grand editorial and political power that this group -- the "netroots," as bloggers call it -- wields has never been more apparent than in the groundbreaking 2008 presidential election.

What time of year do teenage girls search for prom dresses online? How does the quick adoption of technology affect business success (and how is that related to corn farmers in Iowa)? How do time and money affect the gender of visitors to online dating sites? And how is the Internet itself affecting the way we experience the world? In *Click*, Bill Tancer takes us behind the scenes into the massive database of online intelligence to reveal the naked truth about how we use the Web, navigate to sites, and search for information--and what all of that says about who we are.

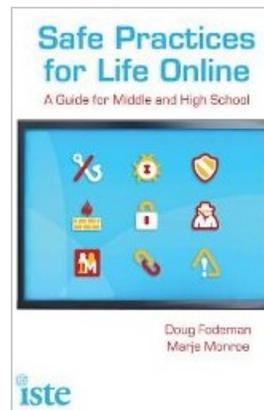


Information Literacy Meets Library 2.0 / edited by Peter Godwin and Jo Parker. London : Facet Publ., 2008.

In this new book, twelve experts share their wisdom and guidance on harnessing the best new Web 2.0 tools to address information literacy. Divided into four parts and twelve chapters, the book begins with an overview of Web 2.0 tools, such as blogs, wikis, podcasts, and how students and other library patrons use these tools. The book continues with a focus on how Web 2.0 tools impact information literacy in three different arenas: LIS students, school libraries, and public libraries. Finally, the book discusses and analyzes specific tools and how libraries may wish to integrate them into their services: blogs, Wikipedia,

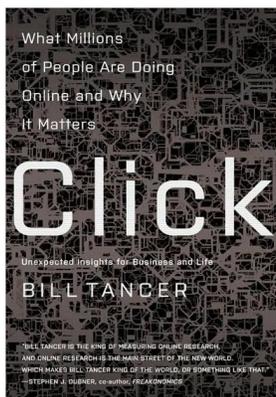
RSS feeds, podcasting, YouTube, and more.

Safe Practices for Life Online / Doug Fodeman and Marje Monroe. Washington D.C: International Society for Technology in Education, 2008.



Safe Practices for Life Online is a guide with practical advice for helping middle and high school students make good choices and minimize risks online.

The book sheds light on teaching students how to conduct themselves online while staying safe and reaping the benefits of all the Internet has to offer. What personal information can a student's user name reveal? What is the most effective way to create a secure password? What should a student do if he or she is bullied or made to feel uncomfortable online? Do your students understand how to spot a phishing scam? How should students respond to the challenging situations they experience daily online? Education is the key and this resource helps provide that.



Click : What Millions of People Are Doing Online and Why It Matters / Bill Tancer. New York : Hyperion, c2008.

FOR MORE BOOKS, PLEASE CHECK OUR ONLINE CATALOG AT <http://69.63.217.22/UI0086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>

ARTICLES



Societies Free of Internet Censorship Are Stronger, Obama Says/ Stephen Kaufman.

The free flow of information on the Internet builds a stronger society, encourages creativity and helps people around the world participate in the political process and hold their governments accountable, President Obama told Chinese students in Shanghai November 16.

Speaking at a town hall meeting ahead of meetings with Chinese leaders in Beijing, Obama said he is "a big believer" in technology and openness and a "big supporter of non censorship" even though it means that he finds himself the subject of constant criticism. In the United States, "the fact that we have free Internet or unrestricted Internet access is a source of strength." Full text is available at <http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2009/November/20091116114511esnamfuak0.1158716.html>

November/20091116114511esnamfuak0.1158716.html

U.S. Initiatives to Promote Global Internet Freedom: Issues, Policy, and Technology/Patricia Moloney Figliola, et. al. This Congressional Research Service report provides information regarding the role of U.S. and other foreign companies in facilitating Internet censorship by repressive regimes overseas. The report is di-

vided into several sections:

- Examination of repressive policies in China and Iran.
- Relevant U.S. laws,
- U.S. policies to promote Internet freedom,
- Private sector initiatives, and
- Congressional action.

Two appendixes describe technologies and mechanisms for censorship and circumvention of government restrictions. Available at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41120.pdf>

Future of Internet IV/Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie.

A Pew Research survey of nearly 900 Internet stakeholders reveals fascinating new perspectives on the way the Internet is affecting human intelligence and the ways that information is being shared and rendered. Full text: <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Future-of-the-Internet-IV.aspx>

Online Journalists Increasingly Risk Censorship, Imprisonment/Jane Morse.

For the first time, the number of online journalists in prison almost surpasses the number of jailed traditional print and broadcast journalists, according to the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), an initiative of the National Endowment for Democracy, a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions around the world. In a special event on Capitol Hill April 27 in honor of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, CIMA, with the support of the U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Freedom of the Press, hosted a morning-long panel dis-

cussion entitled "Bloggers Behind Bars." Full text is available at <http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2010/April/20100429143752ajesrom0.366131.html>

Access and Control: A Growing Diversity of Threats to Internet Freedom/Freedom Institute

As the internet and other new media come to dominate the flow of news and information around the world, governments have responded with measures to control, regulate, and censor the content of blogs, websites, and text messages. Indeed, the recent case of an Iranian blogger who died in police custody is a disturbing reminder that expressions of political dissent or even independent thought circulated through the internet carry as much risk as those circulated via underground journals in an earlier era. And just as authoritarian regimes once devoted massive resources to controlling the print media and the airwaves, so today China employs a small army of functionaries tasked with monitoring and censoring the content of websites and blogs. Full text: http://www.freedomhouse.org/printer_friendly.cfm?page=384&key=194&parent=19&report=79

Authoritarianism vs. the Internet/Daniel Calingaert. Policy Review, April/may 2010, No. 160.

Will the Internet bring freedom to oppressed people or can it be controlled so that it cannot threaten repressive regime?. Full text version of this article is available through request to IRC by: ircjakarta@state.gov

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The IRC collection includes an up-to-date reference collection, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online databases. Please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/UI0086Staff/DPAC/index.asp>

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Pesta Blogger 2010: Celebrating Diversity

U.S. Embassy Jakarta is the main sponsor for Pesta Blogger 2010

On August 18, the U.S. Embassy announced it would be the main sponsor for Pesta Blogger 2010: "Celebrating Diversity." This is the third year in a row U.S. Embassy Jakarta has sponsored Pesta Blogger, Indonesia's premiere blogging event.



U.S. Embassy Kicks Off Pesta Blogger 2010: Celebrating Diversity

Pesta Blogger 2010 includes ten regional blogging workshops, or "blogshops" held in different cities across the country: Makassar (21 August), Padang (28 August), Manado (4 September),

Pontianak (25 September), Banjarmasin (2 October), Yogyakarta (9 October), Surabaya (15 October), Madura (16 October), Aceh (21 October), Medan (23 October).



Blogshop participants in Banjarmasin

During the blogshops, the participants learn about blogging and other social media, including Facebook and Twitter.

The main Pesta Blogger festival will be in Jakarta on October 30, 2010, at Rasuna Epicentrum Walk.

In 2009, more than 1,400 participants attended

the Pesta Blogger festival.

More information about Blogshops and Pesta Blogger 2010 is accessible at: <http://pestablogger.com/>

Become fan of the U.S. Embassy Facebook page to get more on Blogshops news and photos as well as other U.S. Embassy events and programs. Please click: <http://www.facebook.com/jakarta.usembassy>



A trainer assisting one of the participants of Blogshop in Pontianak