What is Wrong with Access to Information?

WSIS Prepcom 2

Roundtable No. 2

Access to knowledge, open access, cultural and linguistic diversity, local content
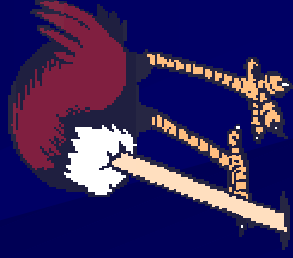
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Themes of Roundtable No. 2

- Access to information and knowledge
  - Providing access points to all users, in all areas

- Production of relevant content
  - Creating substantive content relevant to all groups of users, according to their needs, their level of education, their language and cultural background

world summit
on the information society
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

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Aren't they Contradictory?

Access to information and knowledge

Benefit.

- Distribution and Enhancement of Knowledge
- Reducing the Digital Divide
- E-Government

Risks

- Information overload
- Inefficiency
- 1984 – big brother knows everything about you

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IRS PLANS GOLDEN EAGLE TAX RETURN

The project manager for the Internal Revenue Service's Document Processing System described the "Golden Eagle" return, in which the government would automatically gather all a person's tax info and then compute the tax. "If I knew what you've made during the year ...

Production of relevant content

- ## Personalization
  - Using knowledge of the customer to provide customized/individualized offerings that address customer needs, preferences and intentions

- ## Contextualization
  - Enhancing the value of products and/or services by offering customers context with search and comparison capabilities

- ## Who decides about the content?

- ## Channeling and filtering

Examples of Filtering

- [Looking for Stormfront?](#)
  You won't find it in Google Germany

- [What happened to Google in China?](#)

So Which Theme is Preferable?

Access to information and knowledge

Providing access points to all users, in all areas

This theme is:
- Less functional
- Less efficient

Nevertheless this theme is:
- More liberal
- More egalitarian

Suggestions, Lessons and Conclusions

- Augment anti-trust measures to cope with information sharing and control
- Assure equity in data accessibility
- Individual rights
  - The right to know
  - The right to appeal
- Distinguish between factual data and evaluative data

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