Today's lecture

- A look at the tute/lab exercises
- Thinking about assignment 1
- Plagiarism/cheating
- More unit objectives

Castells (2000: 408) defines a network society

- ‘a society that is structured in its dominant functions and processes around networks’
- ‘in its current manifestation it is a capitalist society’
- ‘without the information technology revolution it would not be such a comprehensive, pervasive social form, able to link up, or de-link, the entire realm of human activity’.
Castells (2000: 409) on living in a network society

Thanks to the ‘networking logic’ at the heart of contemporary society,
– ‘capital flows can bypass controls’
– ‘workers are individualised, outsourced, subcontracted’
– ‘communication becomes at the same time global and customised’
– ‘valuable people and territories are switched on, devalued ones are switched off.’

Exercises for Lab 4

• Tracing the documentary webs surrounding individuals
  – What sorts of documentary evidence are used as commentaries on their lives and activities?
  – Which information byproducts concerning their lives are cited as sources of information?

Let’s try one now.

Exercises for Tute 4

• Consider the documentary web surrounding some significant events
  – What records are created as a result of these events?
  – What information products are created as a result of these events?
  – Illustrate how some of these documents are linked
Thinking about Assignment 1

• Consider the documentary web surrounding some significant events
  – Last year it was the death of Princess Diana
  – The year before it was the Roswell incident

Thinking about Assignment 1

• Part 1: evaluate the document provided
  – What apparent statements of ‘fact’ does it contain?
  – How might you verify them?
  – What kinds of documentary sources (including information byproducts) would you turn to?

USAF official report on Roswell (can you find it online?)

1. "Aliens" observed in the New Mexico desert were actually anthropomorphic test dummies that were carried aloft by U.S. Air Force high altitude balloons for scientific research.
2. The "unusual" military activities in the New Mexico desert were high altitude research balloon launch and recovery operations. Reports of military units that always seemed to arrive shortly after the crash of a flying saucer to retrieve the saucer and "crew," were actually accurate descriptions of Air Force personnel engaged in anthropomorphic dummy recovery operations.
3. Claims of "alien bodies" at the Roswell Army Air Field hospital were most likely a combination of two separate incidents:
   a.) a 1956 KC-97 aircraft accident in which 11 Air Force members lost their lives; and,
   b.) a 1959 manned balloon mishap in which two Air Force pilots were injured.
Thinking about Assignment 1

- Part 2: critically evaluate 3 web sites that address the assignment topic
  - Provide the URLs for the sites you select.
  - Briefly explain the point of view of the author(s) of each of these sites.
  - Highlight the strengths and weaknesses of their argument.

Thinking about Assignment 1

- Part 2: critically evaluate 3 web sites that address the assignment topic
  - Provide examples of the documentary evidence that each site provides to support its theories or explanations.
  - Explain what corroborating evidence would you want to see before you would accept the authority of any of these sources.
  - Document any evidence that the authors provide of their authority – i.e. the reasons why a reader should take what they say seriously.

Plagiarism/cheating - what are they?

- University policy
- Some examples
- How to avoid it
Plagiarism - University policy

'means to take and use another person’s ideas and or manner of expressing them and to pass them off as one’s own by failing to give appropriate acknowledgement.'


Cheating - University policy

'means seeking to obtain an unfair advantage in an examination or in other written or practical work required to be submitted or completed by a student for assessment.

'Hence if the passing off was:
– done intentionally, the student has cheated;
– not intentional, the only offence the student has committed is the academic misdemeanor of failing to reference a source correctly.'


Unit objectives

• At the completion of this unit the students will:
  – have knowledge of:
  – have an understanding of:
  – have the skills to:
  – have developed attitudes which enable them to:
have the skills to:

- evaluate ICTs and IM tools in terms of meeting user needs

How about the IMS1603 website as one example?

Further reading


