Internet and Socio-Cultural Transformations in Information Society

Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk
7–12 September 2013
Round Table
“Multilingualism in the Digital World”

Redefining the Digital Divide around Information Literacy and Linguistic Diversity in a future context of access provision
MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

http://maaya.org
TWO VISIONS
OF DIGITAL DIVIDE

FOR COMPUTERS
MINDED PERSONS

FOR INFORMATION
MINDED PERSONS

A MATTER
OF ACCESS

ALSO A MATTER OF
EDUCATION
**TWO VISIONS OF DIGITAL DIVIDE**

| "Internet is for every one!" | Digital literacy |
| "Let’s connect the next billion users" | Information Literacy |
| "Broadband commission" | Technology ownership |
A VISION OF THE DIGITAL DIVE FROM THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE

...AND FROM FIELD EXPERIENCES IN THE SOUTH
REFERENCE

“Digital divide, Social divide, Paradigmatic divide”, Daniel Pimienta, July 2007

In Spanish, French and English.
The hurdle track from Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) to ICT for Human Development (ICT4HD) and the process minded approach
1. Existent, open and reachable ICT infrastructure.
2. Possibility of an efficient and productive use of ICT (requirements for digital literacy begin here).
3. ICT interface respect to one’s language and culture.
4. Capacity to read, write and understand in one’s own language (functional literacy).
5. -Access-localization
6. -Access-affordability
7. -Access-sustainability
8. -Access-ownership
9. When ICT usage allows the transformation of social reality (practical realizations of previous capacities).
10. When usage has social meaning in one’s society (content production, virtual communities).
11. When the action of transforming the social reality triggers original solutions.

When the options of freedom are laid open and capacities are expanded.
While telecommunications, hardware and software components are (predictable) prerequisites, the real pillars of Human Centred Information Societies are: EDUCATION, ETHICS & PARTICIPATION articulated as a systemic process.

Education about culture of
- networking
- information
- process

Ethics of
- networking
- information
- processes

Participation in
- public policy creation
- application design
- all information society building processes.

References:
- "Working the Internet with a social vision", Mistica virtual Community, (2002)
  http://funredes.org/mistica/english/cyberlibrary/thematic/eng_doc_ojlist2.html
- “Linguistic Diversity in Cyberspacemodels for development and measurement”,
IS THIS APPROACH STILL VALID 7 YEARS LATER?

LET’S IDENTIFY THE MAIN EVENTS OF LAST YEARS INTERNET EVOLUTION AND CHECK FOUR MAIN LINES OF CHANGES.
LAST YEARS INTERNET EVOLUTION

1- TECHNOLOGY

MOBILE + SMARTPHONES + BROADBAND + WIRELESS + VIDEO
LAST YEARS INTERNET EVOLUTION

2 – THE DEVELOPMENT ENGINES

SEARCH ENGINES + THE ADVERTISMENT BASED ECONOMICAL MODEL + THE LOST OF VIRGINITY OF “MISS PRIVACY”
TLE LOST OF PRIVACY

1993

“On the Internet, nobody knows you’re a dog.”

2013

Find us on Facebook
LAST YEARS INTERNET EVOLUTION

3- MAINLINE APPLICATIONS

WEB 2.0 + THE LOST OF ASYNCHRONISM + THE RAPE OF MADAME PRIVACY
LAST YEARS INTERNET EVOLUTION

4 – HUMAN TOPOLOGY

THE INTERNET DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

ENGLISH
Top Ten Languages in the Internet
2010 - in millions of users

- English: 536.6
- Chinese: 444.9
- Spanish: 153.3
- Japanese: 99.1
- Portuguese: 82.5
- German: 75.2
- Arabic: 65.4
- French: 58.8
- Russian: 58.7
- Korean: 39.4

All the rest: 360.6

Estimated Internet users are 1,966,614,816 on June 30, 2010
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Internet Users in the World
Distribution by World Regions - 2012 Q2

- Asia 44.8%
- Europe 21.5%
- North America 11.4%
- Lat Am / Caribb 10.4%
- Africa 7.0%
- Middle East 3.7%
- Oceania / Australia 1.0%

Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm
Basis: 2,405,518,376 Internet users on June 30, 2012
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IS THIS APPROACH STILL VALID 7 YEARS LATER?

MY OPINION IS “YES, STILL MORE!”

ACCESS IS EVERY DAY LESS OF A PROBLEM

AND

THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IS EVERY DAY MORE A QUESTION OF EDUCATION THAN ACCESS
THE CONTENT DIVIDE
http://www.giswatch.org/gisw2008/thematic/AccessingContent.html
DIGITAL DIVIDE IS MUCH DEEPER IN TERMS OF CONTENTS THAN IN TERMS OF ACCESS
AFRICA FOR EXAMPLE

🌐 4.8% of Internet users
(source InternetWorldStats – 2010)

🌐 0.6% of English web pages
(source FUNREDES/UL 2007)

🌐 0.6% of French web pages
(source FUNREDES/UL 2007)

🌐 African local languages weight each between 0.006% & 0.06% of total web pages
(source LOP 2007)
IMPLICATIONS OF CONTENT DIVIDE

1) Do those people have the access organized in their mother tongue?
2) If so do they find the density and variety of contents in their mother tongue comparable to English?

If not ➔

ACCULTURATION RISK IS HIGH
HOW TO FOSTER CONTENT?
THE LINGUISTIC DIVIDE
REFERENCES


Measuring linguistic diversity on the Internet, UNESCO, 12/2005
LETS GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY

- 40,000 languages has existed
- Between 6,000 & 9,000 still alive
- Every 2 months one disappears
- Some 500 are localized
- Wikipedia handles 264 languages
- Google works in 45 languages
- ... and I am speaking here in English
LET'S GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY!

Top 10 Languages in the Internet
millions of users

- English: 464
- Chinese: 321
- Spanish: 131
- Japanese: 94
- French: 74
- Portuguese: 73
- German: 65
- Arabic: 41
- Russian: 38
- Korean: 37

All the rest: 258

Estimated Internet users are 1,596,270,108 for 2009Q1

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LETS GET A ROUGH FIGURE OF REALITY

ENGLISH

[source: FUNREDES/UL 2007]
LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE INTERNET

- Paradoxical situation

INTERNET’s REALLY FOR EVERY ONE?

IDN INDICATORS
CONCLUSIONS

THE INTERNET DOES HAVE FRONTIERS

LANGUAGES ARE THE FRONTIERS OF THE INTERNET
CONCLUSIONS

INTERNET DEMOGRAPHICS
CALL FOR SETTING HIGH PRIORITY
TO LANGUAGES SUPPORT AND CONTENT FOSTERING
CONCLUSIONS

MASSIVE DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY IS THE ONLY WAY TO TRIGGER MASSIVE AND QUALITY CONTENT PRODUCTION

COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES FOR DIGITAL DIVIDE MUST GO BEYOND ACCESS AND INCLUDE EDUCATION