storage & search

revolution at last?

April 23, 2015
Google is able, using Android or Chrome, to arbitrarily determine that the search will no longer be carried out from a web address but by using an app. This means that Google will be able to withdraw from all the commitments it has given, which to this day are still bound to the Google domains such as google.de. —Döpfner
summing up

over to you

transformation

properties

history

the library
“In the Belgian city of Ghent, we have digitized more than 200,000 out-of-copyright books written in Latin, French, Dutch, German and English from the 15th through 19th centuries at the local university’s library. Many of these works were viewed only a few times each year. Now, on the Google Books platform, they receive up to 100,000 views each day – and the library reports more researchers traveling to Ghent to peruse the physical works.” — Eric Schmidt

"a sort of mechanized private file and library" — Vanevar Bush, 1945

"[T]he library of the future." — J.R. Licklider, 1965

"[T]he Internet ... is a library.” — Frances Cairncross, *The Death of Distance*, 1997


"[T]he web is a global library produced by millions of people” — Yochai Benkler, *The Wealth of Networks*, 2006

"In the beginning, the Web was a library” — Abelson, &c., *Blown to Bits*, 2008

"Most of the world's information is not online. It's offline, in books, on shelves." — Google representative, 2009
all or nothing:

collections?

or selections?

Alexandrian fixation

"These Libraries in a few years, will be full and compleat, being furnished, not only with all the valuable and usefull Old Books in any Art of Science, but also with all the valuable New Books, so soon as every they are heard of or seen in the World."

—James Kirkwood, An Overture for Founding and Maintaining of Bibliothecks in Every Paroch Throughout this Kingdom, 1699
"Expropriation of widely held privacy rights ... has been accomplished through a unique assembly of public and private actors and interests that operate outside the auspices of legitimate democratic mechanisms." — Zuboff

... public or private places?

"When evening has come, I return to my house and go into my library. At the door I take off my clothes of the day, covered with mud and mire, and I put on my regal and courtly garments; and decently reclothed, I enter the ancient courts of ancient men, where, received by them lovingly, I feed on the food that alone is mine and that I was born for. There I am not ashamed to speak with them and to ask them the reason for their actions; and they in their humanity reply to me. And for the space of four hours I feel no boredom, I forget every pain, I do not fear poverty, death does not frighten me. I deliver myself entirely to them."

— Niccolo Machivelli, "Letter to Francesco Vettori," 1513
... and obligations

preservation

organization

"to organize the world's information"

access

who?

how?

to what?

[Macintosh:~] pbd% grep voltaire
Morse paradox

"The record of intelligence is made in a permanent manner ... 

Communications are secret to all but the persons for whom they are intended."

— Morse to Congress
looking at the library of the future?
the library

history

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stored writings

**Ebla** (Syria) c 2250 bce

**Babylon** (Iraq) c 1790 bce, 15,000 tablets  
Hammurabi

**Nineveh** (Iraq) c. 650 bce, 31,000 tablets  
Ashurbanipal; destroyed 612 bce
Lyceum [Greece]  
(Aristotle)

Pergamum [Turkey]  
(c 197 BCE)  
200,000 scrolls
Alexandria

"[T]he Ptolomies "sought to make their capital the cultural center of the Greek world ... what they couldn't buy...commandeered...confiscated"

— Casson, Libraries of the Ancient World, 2000

a "public" library c. 300 b.c.e

490,000 vols. in main library ; 42,800 in "daughter"

"Anthony gave the 200,000 books in the library of Pergamum ... as a gift."
Bayt al-Hikma, Baghdad, 9th century
("The House of Wisdom")

monastic order
Humbert de Romanis (c1194-1277)

dry, well ventilated, ample shelving, subject categories, catalogue, titles on spines; up to date, selling old and duplicates to buy new; regular hours; "reference" books chained, others portable; loans recorded

Trithemius (15 - 16th cent)
Mazarin (17th cent)
state intervention

Paris (Charles V, 1338-1380)

Beijing (Ming Dynasty, 15c)

Florence (Cosimo de Medici, 1389-1464)

Vatican (15th century)

Escorial (16th century)

British museum (dept of printed books), 1753
1800 - library, c. 3,000 books

1814 - destruction

"I learn from the newspapers that the vandalism of our enemy has triumphed over science as well as the arts" — Jefferson

1815 sale of Jefferson's library

6,487 books; $23,950

1851 fire destroys 35,000 books

1897 Thomas Jefferson building
expressions of identity

national library

“Libraries are the Memory of Mankind”

—Goethe

“Reserves against a spiritual winter”

—Yourcenar

Babylon, Pergamum, Alexandria, Syria, Tripoli, Sarajevo, Baghdad, Timbuktu …
At the upper-end is a fair Room, wherein the Papers of State are kept; particularly those of the Administration of Cardinal Mazarin and his own Accounts, when he was in Employment. These make up many hundred Folio’s. The Manuscript Library ... contains 6,6100 Volumes.”

—Martin Lister, FRS, 1698
the library

history

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open to the public

Cheetham, England, 1653
(first public library)

Cranston Library, Reigate 1701
(first public lending library)

Coffee-House libraries, 18th c.

Beijing libraries and bun shops

Mudie's Select Library

Mechanics subscription libraries

Tabard Inn 5 ¢ Booklover's Library
Alexandrian order
alphabetical — Zenodotus c248 bce
subject — Callimachus c240 bce
cataloguing
Registrum Anglie de Libris Doctorum et Auctorum
(13th c.)
Conrad Gesner, Bibliotheca Universalis ... omnium scriptorum in tribus linguis ...1545
systems of classification
Library of Congress
Thomas Jefferson -- Denis Diderot -- Francis Bacon

Dewey [Dui] Decimal

Edward Gibbon
1737–1794

Melvil Dewey
1851–1931

cataloguing
a public good
acquisition by ...
(pillage)
deposit
purchase
public funds -- public libraries act (UK 1850)
philanthropy -- (Carnegie libraries)
a private place
over to you

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the library
Photography applied to Catalogues of Books.—May not photography be usefully applied to the making of catalogues of large libraries? It would seem no difficult matter to obtain any number of photographs, of any required size, of the title-page of any book. Suppose the plan adopted, that five photographs of each were taken; they may be arranged in five catalogues, as follows: —Era, subject, country, author, title. These being arranged alphabetically, would form five catalogues of a library probably sufficient to meet the wants of all. Any number of additional divisions may be added. By adopting a fixed breadth—say three inches—for the photographs, to be pasted in double columns in folio, interchanges may take place of those unerring slips, and thus librarians aid each other. I throw out this crude idea, in the hope that photographers and librarians may combine to carry it out. Albert Blor, LL.D.

Dublin.

Photographic Copies of Ancient Manuscripts.—Might not photography be well employed in making fac-similes of valuable, rare, and especially of unique ancient manuscripts? If copies of such manuscripts could be multiplied at a moderate price, there are many proprietors of libraries would be glad to enrich them by what, for all purposes of reference, would answer equally well with the originals.

A.

[This subject, which has already been touched upon in our columns, has not yet received the attention it deserves. We have now before us a photographic copy of a folio page of a MS. of the fourteenth or fifteenth century, on which are inscribed a number of charters; and, although the copy is reduced so as to be but about 2 inches high and 1 ½ broad, it is perfectly
collection or selection?

“The external make-up of a book, its format and the personality of its author are unimportant ... the ideal ... would be to strip each article or each chapter in a book of whatever is a matter of fine language or repetition or padding and to collect separately on cards whatever is new and adds to knowledge.” — Paul Otlet, Selected Essays, 1990

Bush & "Memex"
from strip to string

1973 — grep (Ken Thompson)

1988 — WAIS

1990 — Archie

1992 — Veronica (Gopher)

1994 — Lycos

1995 — Alta Vista, Yahoo

1996 — Inktomi, Bomis

1997 — Ask Jeeves

1998 — Overture (aka GoTo.com)
yet another hierarchical officious oracle to organize the world's information
expanding search: searching the searchers

and should we worry?

"You have zero privacy.... Get over it!"

—Scott McNealy, Sun Microsystems

"If you have something you don't want anyone to know, maybe you shouldn't be doing it in the first place."

—Eric Schmidt, Google

trade secrets?

"If you have nothing to hide you have nothing to fear."

—Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook
US tech giants knew of NSA data collection, agency's top lawyer insists

NSA general counsel Rajesh De says big tech companies like Yahoo and Google provided 'full assistance' in legally mandated collection of data

Spencer Ackerman in Washington
theguardian.com, Wednesday 19 March 2014 14.40 EDT
Jump to comments (567)

nothing to hide?

The Opinion Pages | OP.ED CONTRIBUTORS

The Future of Internet Freedom

By ERIC E. SCHMIDT and JARED COHEN MARCH 11, 2014

Leave Facebook if you don't want to be spied on, warns EU

European Commission admits Safe Harbour framework cannot ensure privacy of EU citizens' data when sent to the US by American internet firms

Revelations of N.S.A. Spying Cost U.S. Tech Companies

By CLAIRE CAIN MILLER MARCH 21, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft has lost customers, including the government of Brazil.

IBM is spending more than a billion dollars to build data centers overseas to reassure foreign customers that their information is safe from prying eyes in the United States government.

And tech companies abroad, from Europe to South America, say they are gaining customers that are shunning United States providers, suspicious of their own governments' ability to snoop.

Google, once disdainful of lobbying, now a master of Washington influence

Google and Comcast lobbying spending soars in first quarter of 2015

Google is under investigation in Europe over allegations it abused its dominance in search, while Comcast is seeking approval to merge with TWC

The latest number topped the $5.03m Google spent on lobbying in the first quarter of 2012. Photograph: Virginia Mayo/AP

Google spent a record $5.47m on lobbying during the first quarter of 2015, an increase of 43% from $3.82m in the previous year, according to figures compiled by non-profit group Consumer Watchdog.
WEEK 15

28 April: Social Implications of the Internet (Part 3)

Required Reading


Hindman, Matthew. 2008, "What is the Online Public Sphere Good For?" in Joseph Turow and Lokman Tsui, eds. The Hyperlinked Society. University of Michigan Press. [hyperlink]

Additional Reading


Poster, Mark. 1995. "The Net as a Public Sphere" Wired 3.11. [hyperlink]
Assignment: “The net effect of the Internet will be to create a new public sphere and democratize public life.” True or False? Pick one side, affirmative or negative, and enumerate three points to defend your position, citing as necessary the readings assigned for April 28, as well as observations about the eighteenth-century public sphere drawn from earlier readings and classes.

Debate: On Tuesday, April 28, we will hold a pseudo-Oxford-style debate based on your answers to this assignment. We will select three people from each side to debate, while the rest of the class will serve as judges. Indicate at the top of your assignment if you would prefer NOT to be called on to participate in the in-class debate.
Eric Schmidt of Google writes, “We know where you are. We know where you’ve been. We can more or less know what you’re thinking about.” By analysis of the ads and links that Google offers you, explore what Google “knows” about you and to what extent it is possible to spoof Google and change its “perception” without losing your identity or Google’s utility. Show whether your findings endorse or challenge Schmidt’s claim or Zuboff’s response.
1. Ning De-Eknamkul and Wendy Xue
2. Jonathan Allen and William Tokumar
3. Ji-Hern Baek, Vivian Lee, and Agape Yu
4. Gabrielle Nguyen and Averell Wallach
5. Max Doherty and Arielle Spencer
6. Jacob Barczak and Michael Roe
7. Henry Chen and Jesica Lee
8. Derek Chiu and Michael Yang
9. Sydnee Stanley and Tim Guan
10. Stephanie Coll