Having Everything Just a Click Away

by

Mihai Baltac

Prof. Michael Kohlhase and Giselda Beaudin
Instructors

Date of Submission: January 17, 2014

Jacobs University — Text And Digital Media

Abstract

A hot parental topic nowadays is that of the Internet police no one denies the importance of being able to access the information present in thirty millions of books (the number of volumes indexed by Google Books alone), yet children and adolescents often do not limit themselves to the useful notions they find. Digital material in the form of violent or pornographic content, or mere procrastination tools such as video games and social sites threaten at times to overshadow the educational benefits of the World Wide Web.

In a time-driven world, the Internet makes information available just a click away. This does wonders to the time-pressed college or highschool student, who by courtesy of Google, Yahoo or Bing is able to write his or her essay without having opened a single (physical) book. Activities such as going to the cinema or buying a compact music disk are instantly simplified through online purchases or, let us face it, piracy.

Few are those of the younger generation who do not own a social website account, which of course has its communication benefits but is nevertheless seen under a negative shadow by various studies. They attest the dualistic impact of websites such as Facebook: both beneficial and destructive. Negative contributions networking sites bring to social connections, literacy levels and personal budget include but are not limited to: social impairment due to refusal to form real contacts, lower literacy because people are distracted from lengthy, worthwhile reading, as well as an increased tendency to spend as a result of extensive advertising.

Often the content on the Internet is raw and unfiltered, a warning sign for the guardians of the underage. Quality on the Web is always debatable as everyone is enjoying their Warholic fifteen-minutes-of-fame, whereas published books contain the guarantee that their content has been proof-read, even censored. Censorship is also a measure employed to control which side of the Web gets to the people in countries such as Cuba or Saudi Arabia and all the same a condemned practice in more democratic environments. Dissatisfaction with content on the Net nevertheless occurs among care-takers, therefore independent measures might bring solace until the young come of age and are able to decide for themselves: the blacklisting of certain sites with the help of software.

Contents

1 Introduction

2 Chapter

2.1 Section

3 Chapter

References

[1] Book 1

[2] Book 2