Possible Research Topics

traditional print media & journalism

digital text & online versions of print media

zines and alternative print media

blogs, wikis and alternative electronic media

non-text media like images, audio, video

participatory media & web 2.0

social networking

privacy

ethics, including plagiarism

copyright and fair use

Refining the research question

Vague: Should young people be spending so much time using online social networks? Which is better, online networking or face-to-face networking?

Better: What are the long-term effects of use of social networking sites like Facebook on adolescents, and are they detrimental to developing communication skills?

Refining the research question

Vague: Should music sampling be protected under Fair Use guidelines?

Better: How can Creative Commons licenses be best used to stimulate the recording industry so that artists and record labels are fairly compensated?

What is access?

Personal access to information

- Digital divide
  - New York Times article from December 2010
- Household income & location
- Political: censorship
  - Egyptian government during protests
  - Google in China
- Free public access?
  - Libraries are access points
  - Filtering?

Institutional access to information

- Schools
  - Print: books, textbooks, etc.
  - Internet: sometimes filtered
- Libraries
  - Print onsite (circulation records are confidential, or are they? USA Patriot Act)
  - Internet onsite (usually filtered) & offsite
  - Some public libraries have research collections
- Museums
  - Images, art, artifacts
  - Some have specialized research libraries

The Open Access Movement

Unrestricted access to the results of research published in scholarly journals and the right to use those results to create new knowledge

The Student-run Right to Research Coalition supports open research resources (video)

– What about textbooks?

Open Access Week is October 24-30

Martin, "The Politics of Research"

- Each group works on one concept:
  - Funding and disciplinary disparities (pp. 129-130)
  - Experts and non-experts; why is expertise privileged? (135-136)
  - What is the community model of research? (136-138)
  - Research and social movements (p.141-142)
- Summarize the concept and report to the class
- From small group discussion, generate one or more questions about this concept and ask your classmates to respond

More on Martin

- How feasible do you think Martin's alternative, "community participation," is?
  - This article is from 1998 – how do you think the internet advances of the past 11 years have affected this?
- What are Martin's biases, viewpoints?
- What does it mean when access to information varies by community?
  - What are some implications for individuals?
  - For American society?
  - For the world?

For Monday, October 3

Discussion: **Privacy**

changing definitions; challenges of digital media

Reading: Marshall, P. (2009, November 6). [Online privacy](). *CQ Researcher*, *19*, 933-956.
boyd, d. (2008). [Facebook's Privacy Trainwreck](). *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies 14:1*, 13-20.
Assignment: Write one reading response blog post