The Labor of Informational Democracy: Towards an LIS Analytical Framework for Socially-Generated Information

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Jonathan Cope - College of Staten Island, CUNY
Democracy, LIS, and the Internet
Methodology
Methodology

Critical Theory
Socially-generated Information
Socially-generated Information

Yochai Benkler
The Wisdom of the Crowd?
Socially-generated Information

Benkler- “The Wealth of Networks”

“Non-Market Production”
Karl Polanyi
Karl Polanyi

Political Economy of Communication/Librarianship
The Proposed Democratic Framework:

• Horizon of Access
• Horizon of Production
• Horizon of Communicative Speech
Horizon of Access
Horizon of Access

Material Impediments
Horizon of Access

Material Impediments

Legal Constraints
Horizon of Access

Material Impediments

Legal Constraints

Exogenous Factors
The Commons

Understanding Knowledge As a Commons: From Theory to Practice.
Edited by Charlotte Hess and Elinor Ostrom. 2007.
Horizon of Production
Horizon of Production

“THEY SAY IT’S FRIENDSHIP. WE SAY IT’S UNWAGED WORK. WITH EVERY LIKE, CHAT, TAG OR POKE OUR SUBJECTIVITY TURNS THEM A PROFIT. THEY CALL IT SHARING. WE CALL IT STEALING. WE’VE BEEN BOUND BY THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE FAR TOO LONG—IT’S TIME FOR OUR TERMS [caps in original].”

Horizon of Production

Marx – The General Intellect
Horizon of Production

Marx – The General Intellect

Negri/Tronti/Federici – The Social Factory
Horizon of Production

Marx – The General Intellect

Negri/Tronti/Federici – The Social Factory

LIS must ground social factory concept in political economy
Horizon of Communicative Speech
Horizon of Communicative Speech

Habermas – Communication Towards Mutual Understanding
Horizon of Communicative Speech

Habermas – Communication Towards Mutual Understanding

Nancy Fraser – Subaltern Counterpublics
Horizon of Communicative Speech

Habermas – Communication Towards Mutual Understanding

Nancy Fraser – Subaltern Counterpublics

Normative Ideal
The Framework as a Guide to Action

Contradictions

- Public sphere premised on non-market relations
- What economic polices to produce robust/inclusive public spaces in late capitalist liberal democracies?
The Framework as a Guide to Action

Libraries employ citizens to build public info commons

Research into online communicative exchange

Continue to preserve the local and idiosyncratic
The Framework as a Guide to Action

Expand role in tech access and training

Support universal basic income

Critically examine online initiatives based on systematic debate and reflections about normative democratic goals
Jonathan Cope
Jonathan.cope@csi.cuny.edu

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