



Lecture 10

Networked Communications

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Participation Quiz

Which movie did you like best?

- A. Lion King II: Simba's Pride
- B. Star Trek Insurrection
- C. Shawshank Redemption
- D. Citizen Kane
- E. Star Wars: in 3D

Ethical Perspectives on Censorship

- Kant opposed censorship
 - Product of the Enlightenment: reaction to institutional control
 - “Have courage to use your own reason”
- Mill opposed censorship
 1. No one is infallible: we may silence the truth.
 2. Even if not, an opinion may contain a kernel of truth.
 3. Even if not, the truth must be rationally tested and validated.
 4. Ideas are most persuasive if they’re tested rigorously.

Principle of harm:

“The only ground on which intervention is justified is to prevent harm to others; the individual’s own good is not a sufficient condition.”

Freedom of Expression: History

- De Scandalis Magnatum (England, 1275)
 - You could be imprisoned for weakening loyalty to the King
 - Not so different from lese-majesty laws today, esp. in Thailand, Morocco (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lese-majesty>)
- 18th century: freedom of the press in England
 - Anyone could print what they liked
 - Punishment for libel: publication causing harm, even if truth
- American states adopted bills of rights including freedom of expression
 - Freedom of expression in 1st amendment to U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press”

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms



- 2.** Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:
- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
 - (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
 - (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
 - (d) freedom of association.

Freedom of Expression is not an Absolute Right

- Right to freedom of expression must be balanced against the public good
- Various restrictions on freedom of expression exist
- Discuss and Debate: Which restrictions on freedom of expression do you think are justified?

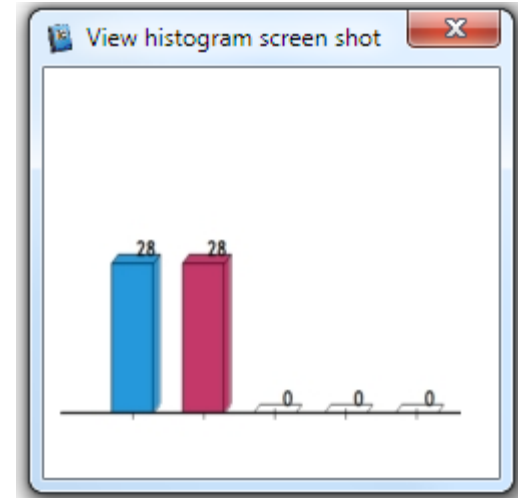
US Child Internet Protection Act

- Libraries receiving federal networking funds must filter pages containing obscenity or child pornography
- U.S. Supreme Court ruled CIPA did not violate 1st Amendment guarantees
(6-3 decision in June 2003)

Children in Libraries

At the beginning of the course, we asked:

“For the protection of children, computers in libraries should be configured to block objectionable content.”



Let's revisit this question. Examine it in groups, and then discuss the question from the perspective of the ethical theories we've studied so far.

Sexting

- Definition: sexually suggestive text messages or emails with nude or nearly nude photographs
- In a 2009 survey, 9% of U.S. teenagers admitted to sending a sext, 17% admitted to receiving a sext
- Case of Jesse Logan
 - killed herself after ex-boyfriend shared pictures
- Case of Phillip Alpert
 - just turned 18; sent pictures of his 16 year-old girlfriend.
 - sentenced and registered as a sex offender for child pornography
- Case of Ting-Yi Oei
 - principal kept a copy of a picture as evidence
 - angry parent sued him
 - lost job over child pornography charges
- How should society respond to sexting?

Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying: Use of the Internet or phone system to inflict psychological harm
- In a 2009 survey, 10% admitted to cyberbullying, and 19% said they had been cyberbullied
- Case of Ghyslain Raza “the Star Wars kid”
 - videotape fell into the wrong hands, shared online, went viral
 - harassed at school, eventually dropped out
- Case of Megan Meier
 - 13 yr old girl met 16 yr old boy on myspace, flirted online
 - then he broke up: “you are a bad person and everyone hates you”
 - she killed herself
 - the boyfriend didn’t exist: 2 neighborhood girls and their mom
 - there was no law against what they did; no charges
- Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act
 - penalties for “communication intended to coerce, intimidate, harass, or cause substantial emotional distress to another person using electronic means to support severe, repeated, hostile behaviour”
 - What do you think of this law?

Girl allegedly commits suicide after being bullied



A teenage girl who appears to have posted a YouTube video about being bullied is being mourned online after allegedly committing suicide. (YouTube)

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CTV British Columbia
Published Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 11:33AM PDT
Last Updated Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 11:50AM PDT

Online condolences and tributes are spreading on social media after a teenage girl who was allegedly bullied in Coquitlam committed suicide.

The Gleneagle Secondary School student posted a YouTube video in September flipping through index cards that tell the story of how she was bullied.

The cards describe how she was forced to move schools several times because of bullying, but the torment never stopped.

She said she was punched and naked pictures of her were cruelly posted online.

Vancouver area teen commits suicide after telling story of being cyberbullied (with video)

#RIPAmanda is trending as people post news and condolences for the teen, Amanda Todd

BY GILLIAN SHAW, VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 11, 2012 1:05 PM



A Vancouver area teen who told a heart-breaking story in a YouTube video of cyberbullying that led to an all-out schoolyard attack has committed suicide.

In stories and posts flooding Vancouver's social media networks, #RIPAmanda is trending as people post news and condolences for the teen, Amanda Todd. Amanda died in Coquitlam last night.

The young teen went to school in Maple Ridge but had changed schools and was living in Coquitlam. She joined YouTube on September 6 and posted her video September 7. Her last YouTube activity was when she added a Hunter Hayes music video to her favourites on YouTube.

On September 7, she also uploaded a presentation Cyber Bullying on Prezi in which she explains what cyberbullying is and gives advice on dealing with it.

In what could turn out to be her own very sad legacy, Todd urged people to stand up to bullies and to help their victims:

"If you see that someone is being bullied, don't be afraid to tell the bully to stop doing what they are doing. Make sure to tell them that it's wrong and that they shouldn't bully other kids."

To parents, Todd urged them "to always give your child emotional support" and help them if they are being bullied.

The Amanda Michelle Todd memorial Facebook page, posted early this morning, already has 2,000 people "liking" it.

Cyberbullying

Ashneel writes: *“We had a small chat after class on Thursday about this bullying issue that has gone viral on Youtube. I find this very applicable to the internet chapter, as it focuses on cyber bullying as the primary issue.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUOpqd0rQSo>

Facts:

- *A man sent this news anchor a private letter.*
- *The letter was then posted to her husband's (another news anchor) work Facebook account.*
- *The man is being accused of cyber bullying.*

Questions of ethics/ morality:

- *Does she misrepresent the letter?*
- *Is it wrong to turn something intended to be private into something public?*
- *Who is the real bully here?”*

Identity Theft

- Identity theft: when a person uses another person's electronic identity
- More than 1 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2008 due to their online activities
- Phishing: use of email to attempt to deceive people into revealing personal information

The screenshot shows the PayPal website interface. At the top, the PayPal logo is on the left, and links for "Sign Up", "Log In", and "Help" are on the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with buttons for "Welcome", "Send Money", "Request Money", "Merchant Tools", and "Auction Tools".

The main content area is titled "Welcome" and contains a "Dear Customer" message: "Your credit card will expire soon. To avoid any interruption to your service, please update your credit card expiration date by following the steps below. If you do not update your credit card expiration date you will no longer be able to fund payments with this card." Below this is a box for "Your Address Information" with a warning: "You may only enter English characters during Sign Up. This does NOT include characters with accents. Please enter your name and address as they are listed for your credit card or bank account. Your primary currency is the currency in which you are expecting to send and receive the majority of your payments."

The sign-up form includes the following fields:

- E-Mail #
- Re-Enter E-Mail #
- Password #
- Re-Enter Password #
- Full Name #
- Full Address #
- State #
- Zip #
- Credit Card #
- Exp.Date(mm/yy) #: Month / Year
- ATM PIN (4 digits) #:
- Re-enter ATM PIN:

At the bottom, there is a "Security Measure" section: "This must be completed to sign up for a PayPal account. Enter the characters as they are shown in the box below. This will further increase the security of your account and the PayPal network. This is not your password. Help". The security box displays the characters "B S 1 8 M J V 7" and a corresponding input field. A "Log In" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Chat-Room Predators

- Chat room: supports real-time discussions among many people connected to network
- Instant messaging and chat rooms replacing telephone for many people
- Some pedophiles meeting children through chat rooms
- Police countering with “sting” operations

Are chatroom “stings” ethical?

Is Internet Addiction Real?

- Some liken compulsive computer use to pathological gambling
- Traditional definition of addiction:
 - Compulsive use of harmful substance or drug
 - Knowledge of its long-term harm
- Some people spend 40-80 hours/week on the Internet, with individual sessions lasting up to 20 hours



Is Internet Addiction Real?

- Kimberly Young created test for Internet addiction
 - Sample question: “Have you repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop Internet use?”
 - Patients who answer “yes” to at least 5 of 8 questions may be addicted
- Others disagree, noting
 - Computer use is generally considered a positive activity
 - Excessive use does not lead to criminal activity
 - More accurate to call excessive use a compulsion

Discuss: do you believe that internet addiction is real?

Does society bear an ethical responsibility for it?