

MEDIA POWER TOOLS

OUR DIGITAL AGE: Ten Key Concepts and Questions

*Consider us “netizens” embedded in five concentric rings:
Individual, Social, Communal, National, and Global.*

- 1. “LITERACY”:** What does it mean to be digitally literate in the information age?
- 2. “SOCIAL”:** What do we mean by “social” with(in) social media?
- 3. “COMMUNITY”:** In what ways have digital communications moved us from a homogenous society to a fragmented one? Pros and Cons? (Dialectic between Benedict Anderson’s “Imagined Communities” and Herbert Gans’ “taste publics”).
- 4. “CREATIVE”:** How creative and engaged are users of digital media content?
- 5. “PLAYBOR”:** In what ways do “fun” and “play” in the digital world cost us - health, time, and surplus value labor - allowing Google, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Snapchat etc. to profit from our “playbor”?
- 6. “COMMERCIALIZATION”:** What impact will commercialization and consolidation of the digital content have on information? (consider NET NEUTRALITY, SEO, click bait, the algorithm, the filter bubble).
- 7. “COMMONS”:** In what ways can Creative Commons approaches promote and enhance collective knowledge publicly and affordably?
- 8. “PRIVACY” and “SURVEILLANCE”:** What about privacy issues? “Sharing” versus Surveillance?
- 9. “GLOBALIZATION”:** Within a globalized, pluralized, digital-enabled world, are we taking full advantage of our unprecedented access to varieties of taste cultures, political opinions and world views?
- 10. “DEMOCRACY” and “JUSTICE”:** How can digital media serve democracy, justice and human rights?