

Title:

Thoughts on the Internet's Founding Myths

Word Count:

907

Summary:

Oceans of information are today at the fingertips of one and sundry.

Keywords:

Article Body:

Whenever I put forth on the Internet's numerous newsgroups, discussion fora and Websites a con

Actually, it is founded on the rather explicit belief in the implicit wisdom of the masses. Th

But the population of Internet users is not comprised of representative samples of experts in

One can ever "contribute" to an online "encyclopedia", the Wikipedia, without the slightest ac

Granted, there are on the Internet isolated islands of academic merit, intellectually challeng

Which leads me to the second myth: that access is progress.

Oceans of information are today at the fingertips of one and sundry. This is undisputed. The I

Alas, most people today are cultural savages, Internet users the more so. They are lost among

Internet users have developed an ethos of anti-elitism. There are no experts, only opinions, T

Study after study have demonstrated clearly the decline of functional literacy (the ability to

In other words: most people know how to read but precious few understand what they are reading

When I was growing up in a slum in Israel, I devoutly believed that knowledge and education wi

The few real scholars and intellectuals left are on the retreat, back into the ivory towers of

Dismal results ensue: fads like environmentalism and alternative "medicine" spread malignantly

It is a sad mockery of the idea of progress. The more texts we make available online, the more

Even the ever-sliming minority who do wish to be enlightened are inundated by a suffocating an

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