

# The Political and Social Implications of the IT Revolution for Education

## The Internet, and the University of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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## The Internet, and the University of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### *Predicting the Future?*

*In an Age of Revolutionary Technological Change*



## The Gutenberg Paradigm

Economics of Publishing

Modern University

International Replication

Digital Revolution

View from U.S. Universities

New Communication

Building New Connections

The Questions

Challenge of New Technologies

# The Age of the Book: The Gutenberg Paradigm

## The Book is:

1. Reproducible
2. Immutable
3. The basis of modern education



# The Economics of Publishing

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**Understanding technology in its  
economic context**

# The Modern University

1. The faculty that advances AND disseminates knowledge
2. Lecture/seminar system
3. The development of scholarly societies



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# International Replication of the University

- 1. Access is essential in this system**
  - a. To publication
  - b. To products of publication
- 2. Yet vast inequalities remain in 20<sup>th</sup> Century book-based universities**

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# The Digital Revolution

1. Changing economics
2. Proliferation of publishing outlets
3. Democratization of access
4. Speed of communication
5. Mutability of information
6. Fundamental changes to the meaning of intellectual property

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# The View from American Universities

**American universities are decidedly fearful about the future of:**

1. Teaching
2. Publication
3. Scholarly organizations

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# The Potential of New Communication For Teaching and Research

1. Access to primary resources
2. Depth & richness of multimedia
3. Low cost, high volume, rapid publication
4. Multiple voices
5. Interactivity

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# Building New Connections: The Example of H-Net

1. International
2. Interdisciplinary
3. Across all levels of education
4. Link to a broader educated public



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# Building New Connections: The Example of H-Net

*In the end we will judge the impact of the new technology by whether it changes how we see the world.*



**H**Net  
Humanities &  
Social Sciences  
Online

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# The Questions

- Will new resources for teaching and research produce new perspectives?
- Does access to multimedia affect how we see things?
- Will the democratization of publication speed the exchange of ideas?
- Does hypertext lead to new insights?
- Will new international and interdisciplinary connections change paradigms?

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# The Challenge of New Technologies

- George Orwell was wrong about the future
- Michael Eisner and Bill Gates have their own vision
- Scholars and teachers must meet these challenges head on to assert control over the technology



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