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SI 410 ETHICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Week 5b: Lessons of Wikipedia

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JONATHAN ZITTRAIN

- Who is Luciano Floridi and why should you care?
- Information Ethics
- Infosphere and implications
- Critiques of Information Ethics

ZITTRAIN ON WIKIPEDIA

Jonathan Zittrain is a Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government, Professor of Computer Science at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and a co-founder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. Previously, he was Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at **Oxford University** and a principal of the Oxford Internet Institute.




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UNSAFE IS SAFE – DRACHTEN TRAFFIC




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 Jerry Michalski, An intersection in Drachten, Flickr



 Jerry Michalski, Traffic-calmed intersection in Drachten, Holland, Flickr



 Jerry Michalski, Traffic-calmed intersection in Drachten, Holland, Flickr

...PEDIAS

- Bomis (like promise) – the origins of Wikipedia “exposed”
 - http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.bomis.com
- Nupedia (sort of predecessor to Wikipedia)
 - http://web.archive.org/web/*/www.nupedia.com/
 - “As such we will not allow any individuals to “edit” articles, thus opening GNE to the possibility of bias.”
- Citizendium – a peer reviewed effort
 - http://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Welcome_to_Citizendium
 - See: Doom
 - http://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Doom_

PIECES OF ZITTRAIN'S ARGUMENT

- MyWikiBiz – author your legacy!!!!
 - http://www.mywikibiz.com/Main_Page

CONTENT REUSE

- Wikipedia content reuse:
http://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Press_releases/Dual_license_vote_May_2009
- Thanksgiving (United States).
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_(United_States))
- Thanksgiving Day.
<http://www.answers.com/topic/thanksgiving-day>
- Thanksgiving.
<http://www.reference.com/browse/thanksgiving>

WHY WIKIPEDIA IS WORKING

- Light regulatory touch + openness
- Earnest discussion
- Core of people who model an ethos
- “User generated content”
- (p. 147) “... involvement of people in the information they read—whether to fix a typographical error or to join a debate over its veracity or completeness—is an important end itself...”



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