

UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

Submitted by :

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Gender: Female

Category of Stakeholder: A. civil society and NGOs including individual users

Country: Colombia

Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

1. What can be done to reinforce the right to seek and receive information in the online environment?

UNESCO comprehensive study on Internet-related issue

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With much respect, I would add something to the question for I think it is not just about How to reinforce the right to seek and receive information in the online environment because having access to available commercial search algorithms might be an easy way to answer this and of course it is not. I would then ask, What can be done to reinforce people's right to access the information they need for their empowerment, for helping them to be the motors of their own development?.

So it is not only a question of making available the information that is produced but also about the policies, platforms, mechanisms , strategies needed in order to help people find the information they need for their development.

Many years working on ICT appropriation in my country have led me to be convinced that this "Access to Information" is where I should continue putting my efforts, for there's a lot of internet connectivity that will be placed soon all around the country but we haven't started yet the necessary conversations related to the big opportunity of taking advantage of this infrastructure for making accessible pertinent information to people and also to bring them to participate with local content contributions. Although the country issued this year an "Information Law", we still lack of strategies for making information really accessible to people and even more, to bring people to participate with local knowledge, local content development .

I'm very much interested to join you in whatever form to help answering this question. The answer is not an easy one, and I would say we need to bring together experts from different areas, academics, NGOs , governments, civil society , specialists on information management,

librarians, and others in order to work on possible solutions which can be rather on the policies side, or maybe it is about developing national content platforms, or about agreeing on metadata structures, or about interoperability issues, or something related to changes in the internet platform structure, or related to local hosting, or about promoting places – like libraries- to help with the appropriation process, or developing new “social driven” search algorithms, ... or a mixture of these?

At this moment I'm working in my country with local entities from various sectors to try to understand how to move forward; but we also know that working global is needed in order to be more effective. This means collaborating with other interested parties/countries facing the same difficult question, for this is nothing more and nothing less than speaking of moving to a real “Information and knowledge society”.

At this point I would like to bring your attention to the effort that IFLA, with some other institutions are leading through a call (www.lyondeclaration.org) “to make an international commitment to use the post-2015 development agenda to acknowledge that access to information and the skills to use it effectively, are required for sustainable development”.

To include “Access to information” in the post-2015 agenda would be the best contribution to the initial question, the most important achievement to move governments (specially of underdeveloped countries) to think and work on this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate,

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About me (last positions):

Until August 2013 and for two years, I was the Director of the Global Libraries project initiative in Colombia, a Ministry of Culture planning phase project financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the “Use and adoption of ICT in the National Network of Public Libraries”. The final grant for the development phase of this project has just been approved this year.

Prior to this work and for four years, I was the Director of RENATA, the National Academic Network, a broad band technology network for higher education, science, research and innovation in Colombia, connected to CLARA (Latin America) and from there to both GEANT(Europe) and Internet2 (USA).

http://unesco-ci.org/cmscore/sites/default/files/webform/internet-issues/unesco_access_to_information_martha_giraldo.rtf

- 2. What mechanisms can develop policies and common standards for open-licensed educational resources and scientific repositories, and for the long-term preservation of digital heritage?**
- 3. How can greater progress be made as regards inclusive strategies for women and girls as well as marginalized and disabled people?**
- 4. How can accessibility be facilitated through increases in locally produced and relevant content in different languages?**
- 5. What can be done to institutionalize Media and Information Literacy (MIL) effectively in national educational systems?**
- 6. What are the current and emerging challenges relevant to freedom of expression online?**
- 7. How can legislation in a diverse range of fields which impacts on the Internet respect freedom of expression in line with international standards?**
- 8. Is there a need for specific protections for freedom of expression for the Internet?**
- 9. To what extent do laws protect digitally interfaced journalism and journalistic sources?**
- 10. What are the optimum ways to deal with online hate speech? How can Media and Information Literacy empower users to understand and exercise freedom of expression on the Internet?**
- 11. What are the optimum systems for independent self-regulation by journalistic actors and intermediaries in cyberspace?**
- 12. What principles should ensure respect for the right to privacy?**

- 13. What is the relationship between privacy, anonymity and encryption?**
- 14. What is the importance of transparency around limitations of privacy?**
- 15. What kinds of arrangements can help to safeguard the exercise of privacy in relation to other rights?**
- 16. How can openness and transparency of data be reconciled with privacy?**
- 17. What may be the impact of issues relating to big data on respect for privacy?**
- 18. How can security of personal data be enhanced?**
- 19. How can Media and Information Literacy be developed to assist individuals to protect their privacy?**
- 20. How can ethical principles based on international human rights advance accessibility, openness, and multi-stakeholder participation on the Internet?**
- 21. What conceptual frameworks or processes of inquiry could serve to analyse, assess, and thereby inform the choices that confront stakeholders in the new social uses and applications of information and knowledge?**
- 22. How does ethical consideration relate to gender dimensions of the Internet?**
- 23. How can ethics, - i.e. the simultaneous affirmation of human rights, peace, equity, and justice - inform law and regulation about the Internet?**
- 24. What international, regional and national frameworks, normative guidelines and accountability mechanisms exist of relevance to one or more fields of the study?**

- 25. How do cross-jurisdictional issues operate with regard to freedom of expression and privacy?**

- 26. What are the intersections between the fields of study: for example, between access and freedom of expression; ethics and privacy; privacy and freedom of expression; and between all four elements?**

- 27. What pertinent information materials exist that cut across or which are relevant to the four fields of the study?**

- 28. What might be the options for role of UNESCO within the wider UN system in regard to the distinct issues of online Access to information and knowledge, Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Ethical dimensions of the information society?**

- 29. What might be options for the role of UNESCO in relation to stakeholders outside the UN system?**

- 30. For each study field, what specific options might UNESCO Member States consider?**