

UNESCO's Comprehensive Study on Internet Related Issues

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

Sanctions against countries which limit their citizens' and residents' access to the internet. Ensuring that there are computers with internet access in public spaces for those who can't afford them. Increased access to mobile internet and inexpensive mobile devices for those living far from population centers.

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?

Sanctions against countries with overly-strict laws governing intellectual property rights.

3. How can greater progress be made as regards inclusive strategies for women and girls as well as marginalized and disabled people?

Increased access to mobile internet, inexpensive mobile devices, and devices adapted to individual needs. Sanctions against countries that violate women's rights. Financial support for girls' education in developing countries.

4. How can accessibility be facilitated through increases in locally produced and relevant content in different languages?

Financial support for translation work. Financial incentives to publish information in multiple languages. Use of a relay language other than English, such as Esperanto, which is easy to learn and does not privilege any native speakers.

5. What can be done to institutionalize Media and Information Literacy (MIL) effectively in national educational systems?

What is MIL? If you are referring to some kind of technology, I don't think anything in particular needs to be done. People will use the technology that they have a use for. Forced use of technology is a waste of time and resources. Teacher education should orient future teachers to being open to trying new technological solutions, but simply throwing computers at classrooms without any consideration for how they are to be used is incredibly stupid.

6. What are the current and emerging challenges relevant to freedom of expression online?

Countries which limit their citizens' free access to all internet sites. Harassment of and threats to women who dare to express their views 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?

Sanctions against countries which limit their citizens free access to the internet. Criminalization of rape and death threats online.

8. Is there a need for specific protections for freedom of expression for the Internet?

I'm not sure. All freedom of expression is in need of protection.

9. To what extent do laws protect digitally interfaced journalism and journalistic sources?

I don't know.

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?

Rape and death threats should not be classified as freedom of speech. People who threaten others simply for expressing their opinions online should be prosecuted.

11. What are the optimum systems for independent self-regulation by journalistic actors and intermediaries in cyberspace?

I don't know.

12. What principles should ensure respect for the right to privacy?

Limits on companies' ability to track user data, particularly Facebook, Google, Amazon.

13. What is the relationship between privacy, anonymity and encryption?

14. What is the importance of transparency around limitations of privacy?

People should know when they are being tracked. Companies' privacy statements should be clear and easy to read and not buried in the fine print of user agreements.

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?

People who have not committed any crimes should not have their online movements tracked in any way. People who have threatened others should be tracked.

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?

People should be made aware that everything they do online can be tracked. But there should be laws against using this data in such a way that it can hurt people who have not committed any crime or threatened others.

20. How can ethical principles based on international human rights advance accessibility, openness, and multi-stakeholder participation on the Internet?

By providing increased access to mobile internet and mobile devices to underrepresented and oppressed groups.

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?

Women who speak out on the internet, even in so-called "developed" countries with relatively high levels of gender equality, are routinely harassed and threatened. This is a limitation on their free speech and a violation of their human rights.

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?