

SPEAK UP



My Virtual World

PROGRAM GUIDE



Vancouver Public Library

SPEAK UP 2008

MY VIRTUAL WORLD

The Vancouver Public Library is pleased to present the third in a series of civic dialogues, *Speak Up*. A forum that brings together many voices, perspectives and experiences, *Speak Up* draws participants from the community and provides an opportunity for you to share your point of view, listen to others and develop solutions to community concerns.

Increasingly, we are connected to – and dependent upon – electronic devices from computers and Blackberries to iPods and iPhones. This year, *Speak Up* focuses on *My Virtual World*, taking a broad perspective to explore the role of technology in our lives. In February and March, panels of experts will address four key aspects of e-activity: Online Privacy, Gaming, Information Online and the Social Impacts of Our Virtual World.



ABOUT THE SPEAK UP SERIES

Vancouver Public Library is committed to encouraging discussion on important contemporary issues. Libraries are often considered the “people’s university” or “living room” and are a natural place for such discussion.

2008 marks the third year of the *Speak Up* public dialogue program. The speakers addressing *My Virtual World* represent a range of perspectives on technology in the virtual and real worlds. By adding your voice to the discussion, you will stimulate new ideas and help us to increase and enliven public discourse in Vancouver. Resource lists to help generate the dialogue are included in this program. Please join us to explore your virtual world!

SCHEDULE:

ONLINE PRIVACY: IS THERE ANY?

Tuesday, February 19
7:00 p.m.
Alice MacKay Room
Central Library
350 W. Georgia St.

Wednesday, February 20
7:00 p.m.
Firehall Branch
1455 W. 10th Ave.

GAMING: DISTRACTION OR NEW WAY OF LEARNING?

Tuesday, February 26
7:00 p.m.
Alice MacKay Room
Central Library
350 W. Georgia St.

Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m.
Oakridge Branch
#191 - 650 W. 41st.

INFORMATION ONLINE: WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Tuesday, March 4
7:00 p.m.
Alice MacKay Room
Central Library
350 W. Georgia St.

Thursday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Renfrew Branch
2969 E. 22nd Ave.

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF OUR VIRTUAL WORLD

Wrap-Up Session:

Tuesday, March 11
7:00 p.m.
Alice MacKay Room
Central Library
350 W. Georgia St.



Moderator – Paul Whitney, City Librarian
Vancouver Public Library

Online technologies are radically advancing our freedoms, but are they also enabling unparalleled invasions of privacy? The first topic of *Speak Up 2008* will examine issues from data mining and profiling, surveillance, the use of search engines, cookies, spy ware and email to the security of public records on the Internet and confidentiality of financial and medical information.

Questions for discussion include should government and business compile, share or sell your personal information? Should you expect privacy in a public forum like the Internet? Who is ultimately responsible for dealing with privacy issues: the government, industry, individuals? And can these activities actually be policed? Come and share your insights and opinions.

SPEAKERS



Mary Carlson

*Director, Office of the Information and Privacy
Commissioner
Province of British Columbia*

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent Office of the Legislature with oversight responsibility for 2,000 public agencies covered by the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the more than 300,000 private organizations covered by the *Personal Information Protection Act*. Ms. Carlson has extensive experience in the privacy technology field as well as privacy and access regulatory experience.



Inspector Kevin McQuiggin

*Vancouver Police Department
Forensic Services Section*

Inspector McQuiggin is in charge of the Forensic Services Section, Vancouver Police Department. He holds a B.Sc. in Computing Science and Mathematics and a Master's degree in Communication. In 1995, he created the first Internet Investigation Unit in British Columbia and completed research papers for the provincial and federal governments on the impact of technological crime upon policing in Canada. Inspector McQuiggin co-chaired the national policing IT Sub-Committee from 2003-2005 and created the computer component of the Forensic Science Technology diploma program at BCIT where he taught for several years.



Richard Rosenberg

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Computer
Science, University of BC
President, BC Freedom of Information and Privacy
Association*

Dr. Rosenberg's work has focussed in areas such as privacy, freedom of expression, intellectual property rights and universal access. His research interests are in the social impact of computers and Artificial Intelligence. He has written widely on privacy issues, free speech and ethics, and appeared before federal parliamentary and provincial legislative committees as well as before the U.S. National Research Council. His most recent book is *The Social Impact of Computers*.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Protecting Your Privacy: How to protect your identity as well as your financial, personal and computer records in an age of constant surveillance

Duncan Long (2007)

The author explains what you need to do to protect yourself against e-theft.

The Future of Reputation: Gossip, Rumor and Privacy on the Internet

Daniel J. Solove (2007)

Using concrete examples, the author offers thought-provoking analysis between free speech and privacy on the Internet.

ONLINE

The BC Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner:

www.oipcbc.org

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is independent from government and monitors and enforces British Columbia's *Personal Information Protection Act* which establishes how private organizations may collect, use and disclose personal information.

Privacy International

www.privacyinternational.org

Based in London, Privacy International is a human rights group formed in 1990 as a watchdog on surveillance and privacy invasions by governments and corporations.

ARTICLE

Available on MasterFILE Premier - a periodical database available free at Vancouver Public Library and vpl.ca

Who Should Read Your Mind?

By Francine Russo

Time Magazine, January 29, 2007

The author explains how brain scanners are becoming more powerful all the time, making privacy experts worried.

DVD

DNA and Dollars (2002)

A behind-the-scenes look at genetic research in Canada, exploring public concerns about the manipulation and commercialization of human genes, cloning and genetic privacy.



Gaming: Distraction or new way of learning?

Moderator – Larry Kuehn, Trustee
Vancouver Public Library Board

The popularity of online games has never been greater than today. For some, games mean community and a new way of learning and being in the world while others fear some people may be leaving the real world behind and losing themselves in the virtual worlds of online role-playing. Our speakers will address the psychological and sociological effects of online gaming and the pros and cons of interacting in a virtual world. Come and discuss whether virtual personalities are healthy or unhealthy, if gaming encourages isolation and addiction or greater sociability and creativity, and the phenomena of online communities like FaceBook and MySpace.

SPEAKERS



Suzanne de Castell

Associate Dean of Education, Simon Fraser University

Dr. de Castell is a professor in SFU's Faculty of Education, specializing in literacy, new media and educational technology studies. Her current research includes educational game design and developing new multimodal research tools and methods. In 2005, Dr. de Castell chaired the Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA) international conference and she co-founded the Canadian Game Studies Association. She is lead editor of *Worlds in Play: International Perspectives on Digital Games Research* (Peter Lang Press, 2007).



Katherine Monk

National Film Critic, CanWest News Service

Ms. Monk is a national film critic for CanWest News Service, which operates 11 major English-language daily newspapers across Canada, including The Vancouver Sun and The Province, Global Television and many smaller publications and broadcast outlets. Prior to becoming a national reporter, Ms. Monk worked at The Vancouver Sun as a film and pop music critic, news reporter and editor. In 2001, Raincoast Books published Ms. Monk's first book, *Weird Sex and Snowshoes: And Other Canadian Film Phenomena*, which hit the Canadian bestseller list and was adapted to the screen by Omni Film in 2004. Ms. Monk is heard regularly on CBC Radio One's Definitely Not the Opera and her weekly appearance on Global TV is available as a podcast.



Dave Warfield

Head of Game Design, Vancouver Film School

Mr. Warfield is intimately familiar with all dimensions of video game production, educating himself for over a decade in the arcades of Vancouver before working in retail and then production with Electronic Arts, one of the most-successful video game companies in the world. He has been with Vancouver Film School for three years.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Reset: Changing the Way We Look at Video Games

Rusel DeMaria (2007)

The author argues that video games, rather than encouraging violent behavior or being a waste of time, can be a learning tool.

The Player's Realm: Studies on the Culture of Video Games and Gaming

Edited by J. Patrick Williams and Jonas Heide Smith (2006)

A collection of articles examining the importance of social and cultural aspects of digital games.

What Every Parent Needs to Know About Video Games: A Gamer Explores the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Video Games

Richard Abanes (2006)

The author provides suggestions on how to make better decisions about video games in terms of what is shown, how it is shown and the overall message.

ONLINE

Reality Bytes: Eight Myths About Video Games Debunked

By Henry Jenkins

The Video Game Revolution

<http://www.pbs.org/kcts/videogamerevolution/impact/myths.html>

The producers believe that a large gap exists between public perception of video games and what some research actually shows. Includes information on the history of gaming and a parent's guide.

Effects of Video Game Playing on Children

National Institute on Media and the Family

http://www.mediafamily.org/facts/facts_effect.shtml

Provides positive and negative aspects of gaming as well as a video game rating system and hints for parents.

Social Impact Games: Entertaining Games with Non-Entertainment Goals

<http://www.socialimpact.games.com>

An ever-growing catalogue of video and computer games known as serious games.

ARTICLES

Available on MasterFILE Premier - a periodical database available free at Vancouver Public Library and vpl.ca

Even Better Than The Real Thing

By Dave Gilson

Mother Jones, May 21, 2007

Provides statistics and trivia about online gamers around the world.

Brain Candy: Is Pop Culture Dumbing Us Down or Smartening Us Up?

By Malcolm Gladwell

The New Yorker, May 16, 2005

The author argues that contemporary culture is more complex and intellectually challenging than in the past.

DVD

The Video Game Revolution

KCTS (2004)

A PBS documentary on the history of computer and video games, including commentary on pros and cons of gaming.



Information Online: What's out there?

Moderator – Shannon Daub, Trustee
Vancouver Public Library Board

The volume of information available online can be overwhelming and it's increasing daily. So while there's no lack of information in the virtual world, how easy is it to find just what you're looking for? Is online information reliable and how can you tell? Is there a balance between content, context and analysis? Does online information complement or compete with traditional sources like newspapers, magazine and books and should we be concerned if information is increasingly only available online? And, instead of stimulating and enlightening us, is information overload causing some people to logoff and tune out? Come and share your experiences and perspectives.

SPEAKERS



David Beers

Editor-in-Chief, The Tyee

Instructor, University of BC School of Journalism

Mr. Beers is founding editor of The Tyee, a Vancouver-based online news site, and an instructor at the UBC School of Journalism. His journalism work includes writing and editing positions at The Vancouver Sun, The Globe and Mail, Vancouver Magazine, The New York Times Magazine, Harper's, Mother Jones magazine and National Geographic. He has won national journalism awards in Canada and the United States.



Sean Embury

Senior Producer, CBC Television

Mr. Embury has been leading innovative, award-winning new media projects for fifteen years, most recently as Senior Producer of Exposure, CBC Television's new cross-platform project that's searching for Canada's favourite online videos. Mr. Embury was Coordinating Producer of CBC Radio 3, contributing to the development of a suite of award-winning web sites, radio shows and podcasts. In 2006, he produced the final season of CBC Television's innovative user-generated content experiment Zed. Before joining CBC, he was Creative Director at Chicago-based marchFirst/divine, overseeing interactive projects and online brand development for an array of high-profile clients.



Brian Owen

Librarian/Administrator, Simon Fraser University

Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing

In recognition of leadership in a number of flagship projects that have benefited Canada's research and library communities, Mr. Owen was awarded the 2007 Canadian Association of Research Libraries Award for Distinguished Service. Mr. Owen was instrumental in establishing a national online publishing system for Canadian scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences, and is actively involved in a three-way partnership between the University of British Columbia's Public Knowledge Project, Simon Fraser University's Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing and the Simon Fraser University Library. This partnership has resulted most recently in the release of a major new version of Open Journal Systems that is used by over 400 journals in six languages.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More

Chris Anderson (2006)

The author argues that our economy and culture are shifting from mass markets to the rise of niches.

The Vanishing Newspaper: Saving Journalism in the Information Age

Philip Meyer (2004)

The author scrutinizes all aspects of journalism and proposes a business model for its survival.

Web of Deception: Misinformation on the Internet

Anne P. Mintz (Editor) (2002)

A collection of essays dealing with the vast amount of misleading and erroneous information on the Internet.

ONLINE

Digital Divide Network

www.digitaldivide.net/

An interactive online community to help bridge the digital divide.

Living Internet

www.livinginternet.com/

An in-depth reference about the Internet, described as informative and fun.

Pew Internet and American Life Project

www.pewinternet.org/

Provides reports that explore the impact of the Internet on families, communities, work and home, daily life, education, health care, and civic and political life.

Web Search Guide

<http://websearchguide.ca>

Information on web searching from a Canadian perspective.

The Editor's Weblog

<http://www.editorsweblog.org>

A project of the World Editor's Forum, this site provides editors and senior news executives information on how to handle the effects of new media on journalism.

Be Web Aware

<http://www.bewebaware.ca>

A bilingual Canadian education program to help children go online safely and information for parents to manage Internet usage.

ARTICLES

Available on MasterFILE Premier - a periodical database available free at Vancouver Public Library and vpl.ca

Beyond the Digital Divide: Issues of Access and Economics

By Stephanie Hawkins

Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science, June 2005.

A literature review exploring the development of the digital divide.

Can Wikipedia Ever Make the Grade?

By Brock Read

Chronicle of Higher Education
October 27, 2006

The author examines the accuracy of Wikipedia as a source of information.

21st Century Learning and Information Literacy

By Patricia Senn Breivik

Change, March/April 2005

Examines multiple aspects of information literacy in the 21st Century.



Social Impacts of Our Virtual World

Moderator – Brian Campbell,
retired senior manager, Vancouver Public Library

The possibilities of the virtual world seem endless and technology is constantly providing us with tools that touch every aspect of our lives. To some, this is a blessing while others wonder what all the fuss is about. Are we becoming irreversibly dependent on the web and is this a good or bad thing? Increasingly, our virtual lives are intersecting with our real lives, which some fear causes isolation where others see freedom and community building. Is virtual communication making us better global and local citizens or are we sacrificing face-to-face encounters for virtual networking? Do we know if virtual relationships last? And for those less economically and socially advantaged, does the Internet provide them with a vehicle and voice or result in further exclusion? Join the final discussion of *Speak Up 2008* to explore your place in the virtual world.

SPEAKERS



Calvin Helin

President, Native Investment and Trade Association

Mr. Helin is a member of the Tsimshian Nation from the northern BC community of Lax Kw'alaams (Port Simpson). He is a practicing lawyer, President of the Native Investment and Trade Association, former Vice President of the National Aboriginal Business Association and founding Director of the newly formed BC Oil & Gas Association. Mr. Helin is the author of several publications relating to aboriginal business and law. His recent book, *Dances with Dependency: Indigenous Success through Self-Reliance*, describes problems faced by aboriginal communities and offers social, educational and economic strategies for solutions.



Dr. Gerri Sinclair

*Executive Director, Masters of Digital Media Program
Great Northern Way Campus*

Dr. Sinclair's experience is in digital media technology, entrepreneurial business, academic research and government policy. The Great Northern Way Campus is a unique, collaborative university environment that combines the strengths of four leading academic institutions, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design and the British Columbia Institute of Technology, to encompass arts, technology and the environment and bridge academia with industry, artists with technology and innovation with development. Dr. Sinclair was formerly the General Manager of MSN Canada and CEO of NCompass, an Internet start-up acquired by Microsoft.



Dr. Richard Smith

*Associate Director, School of Communication
Simon Fraser University*

Dr. Smith is a Professor in SFU's School of Communication and Director of the university's Centre for Policy Research on Science and Technology. Dr. Smith's research focus is social inclusion (and exclusion) brought on by the introduction of new media. He has an ongoing interest in technology for education, privacy and surveillance in public spaces, online communities and the wireless information society. Dr. Smith is also examining issues like addictive on-line games, new communication technology in the home, open source software and social activism, and information technology in support of first nations development and tele-health.

RESOURCES

BOOKS

Everything is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder
David Weinberger, 2007

The author explores how the shift from physical to digital is reshaping our lives and changing the ways we think about organization.

The Wisdom of Crowds: Why the many are smarter than the few and how collective wisdom shapes business, economies, societies and nations

James Surowieki, 2004

An in-depth look at why two heads (or many) are better than one.

Digital Divide: Civic Engagement, Information Poverty and the Internet Worldwide

Pippa Norris, 2001

The author examines access and use of the Internet world-wide and finds access inequalities between the rich and the poor and between industrialized and developing societies.

ONLINE

Our Life in Digital Times

George Sciadas

Statistics Canada, 2006

<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection/Statcan/56F0004MIE/56F0004MIE2006014.pdf>

Part of the Connectedness Series, this paper examines the outcomes and impacts of information and communications technology (ICT).

ARTICLE

Available on MasterFILE Premier - a periodical database available free at Vancouver Public Library and vpl.ca

How Connected are Canadians? Inequities in Canadian Households' Internet Access

By Catherine A. Middleton and Christine Sorensen

Canadian Journal of Communications, Vol 30, 2005

The authors review Canadian Internet access and barriers to access.





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