

Websites review

Media.cat

<<http://www.media.cat/>>

Aimed at journalism professionals, those studying the communication sector and citizens in general, this initiative by the Ramon Barnils Journalist Group [Grup de Periodistes Ramon Barnils] works to circulate and defend rigorous journalism and its own communicative space. The initiative acts as a critical observatory of communication in Catalan and analyses both its content and the formats it's presented in. This website provides access to its reports and monographic studies, media-related news and information, updated daily, and articles on certain issues, as well as links to a range of social networks and web 2.0 tools.

Media, Communication and Cultural Studies Association (MeCCSA)

<<http://www.meccsa.org.uk/>>

MeCCSA is an association dedicated to the study, analysis and promotion of the media, communication and cultural studies within the area of higher education in the United Kingdom. Among its aims are defending and developing higher education related to the media, providing a forum to exchange ideas, raising public understanding of the media and promoting research in this field, as well as adopting policies which encourage diversity and equal opportunities in this field. The website provides access to networks related to various areas, such as climate change, radio and gender studies. Relevant consultations can also be accessed, such as copyright and the promotion of media literacy.

Berkman Center for Internet & Society

<<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/>>

The Berkman research centre's mission is to explore and analyse cyberspace, studying its development, dynamics, norms and standards and assessing the need for laws and sanctions. The centre analyses the real and possible boundaries in cyberspace between open and close systems of code, commerce, of governance and of education and the relation of law to each. Privacy, intellectual property, anti-trust, content control and electronic commerce are some of the areas of study promoted by the Berkman Center. As part of its research mission, the centre builds, uses and freely shares open software platforms. The website provides access to information on collaborating researchers, such as projects on the relation between the internet, regulation and society (for example, *Media Cloud* and *Internet and Democracy*).

Citizen Media Law Project (CMLP)

<<http://www.citmedialaw.org/>>

The Citizen Media Law Project is hosted by the Berkman Center for Internet & Society (Harvard University). The CMLP provides assistance, training, research and other resources for individuals and organisations involved in online and citizen media. The mission of Citizen Media Law Project is to serve as a catalyst for creative thinking about the intersection of law and journalism on the internet. Its portal has a wide range of services, such as a guide with information on current legislation in the different US states, a database with information on lawsuits, subpoenas and other problems that might be faced by people operating on the internet, as well as a forum and legal assistance via the Online Media Legal Network.

Common Sense Media

<<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators>>

Common Sense Media is a US not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the lives of children and their families by providing information, educational resources and an independent voice in a culture where media and technology are everywhere. Its website provides access to different research studies on the media's impact on children and their families. It also provides free tools such as the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum and the Parent Media Education Program, lessons on a range of themes, such as *cyberbullying* and *copyright*, online training and film and videogame reviews that help parents take informed decisions.

Digital Youth Network: Empowering Youth Through Media

<<http://www.digitalyouthnetwork.org/>>

The Digital Youth Network (DYN) is a media literacy programme that creates opportunities for youth to engage in learning environments that span both in-school and out-of-school contexts. The programme offers young people access and training in the use of new media literacy tools, as well as activities where the development of new media literacies is essential. Its website provides access to information on research into learning processes in a society where technological convergence is a reality, and information on the philosophy surrounding the programme and its core values: creativity, collaboration, adaptability, responsibility and identity.

MIT Center for Future Civic Media

<<http://civic.mit.edu/>>

Using the term *civic media* instead of *citizen journalism*, the MIT Center for Future Civic Media creates and develops new technologies to support and foster civic media and political action. On the one hand, the centre invents alternative technologies and, on the other, it identifies the cultural and social potential of media change. Its website provides access to different projects supported by the centre, such as *grassroots mapping*, *homeless neighbors* and *public art Wiki*. There is also access to different tools and blogs and an agenda with information on future conferences and congresses related to civic media.

Pew Internet & American Life Project

<<http://www.pewinternet.org/>>

The active Pew Internet & American Life Project is one of the seven projects carried out by the Pew Research Center, a non-profit centre that provides information on the attitudes and trends in the United States. The Project produces reports exploring the impact of the internet on families, communities, work and home, education, health, daily life and civic and political life. The Project periodically carries out surveys examining how US citizens use the internet and how its use affects their lives. In total, around 15 research studies are produced per year. Its website provides access to different topics (digital divide, education, social networks, new media ecology, among others), to statistical data of great interest and to a list of its collaborating experts.

Center for Social Media

<<http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org>>

Founded in 2001 by Professor Patricia Aufderheide, the Center for Social Media showcases and analyses social media, especially the evolution of documentary film and video in a digital era. The centre explores the fast-changing environment for public media. The website highlights a section on good practices with categories such as documentaries, media literacy and online video, among others. Access is also provided to information on the new era of digital participation by public media, to a wide range of educational materials, documents and articles, as well as an agenda of events related to social media.

Digital Media and Learning

<<http://digitallearning.macfound.org>>

This initiative explores the hypothesis that digital media tools now enable new forms of knowledge production, social networking, communication and play. Especially focusing on young people, the initiative studies how they engage in an exploration of new languages, games and social interaction. Acknowledging the emerging vernacular of young people who are “growing up digital”, and embracing digital writing, thinking and tools, this initiative analyses whether young people are fundamentally different because of their exposure to technology and the environments and experiences that capture their interest. In this respect, it deals with the areas of ethnography, the development of media literacy and the connection between games and learning.

Media Psychology Research Center (MPRC)

<<http://mprcenter.org/>>

The Media Psychology Research Center is a non-profit centre dedicated to media research (to assessing the media) and to education. The centre analyses how people consume, produce and distribute information via new technologies and seeks to understand the impact on both individuals and society. The MPRC's mission is therefore to examine the interaction of media with human experience in every aspect of life for the purpose of promoting public understanding and positive media development and use. The website provides ample information on the concept of *media psychology* as well as recent projects carried out on social media, education, online audiences and the psychological impact of the media and interactive technologies on learning.

The GoodWork Project

<<http://www.goodworkproject.org/research/goodplay/>>

Within the GoodWork Project - a large scale project to identify and improve the incidence of good practices in society - we can find two media-related initiatives. On the one hand, the *Good-Play Project* explores the ethical character of young people's activities in the new digital media. Specifically, it analyses five themes: identity, privacy, ownership and authorship, credibility and participation. On the other hand, the *Developing Minds & Digital Media Project* (DM2) analyses, through qualitative interviews with professionals who work with adolescents and through content analyses of young people's creations, the myriad ways in which new digital media (internet, mobile phones) influence culture, psychology and creativity of young people and adolescents.

International Modern Media Institute (IMMI)**<<http://immi.is/Home>>**

Located in Iceland, the IMMI works towards rethinking media regulation for the digital age. The centre's aim is to better protect freedom of the press the world over by establishing best practices in law and promoting their adoption. The website provides access to research covering a range of interests, such as communications protection, freedom of information, judicial process protection and the protection of information sources, among others. There is also access to a list of resources, such as legal information for countries, notable news articles, international guides and law references.

Women's Media Center**<<http://www.womensmediacenter.com/>>**

Founded in 2005, the Women's Media Center focuses on making women more visible in the media. The centre works directly with the media to ensure that women's stories are told and women's voices are heard, both as sources and as subjects (be it in news items, the press, radio or internet). The centre acts in three different ways: through media campaigns, by creating content and by training women to participate in the media. Its website provides access to research, statistics and the She-Source.org database, which contains a list of experts in various areas and is designed to help journalists when they need a spokeswoman.

Canadian Media Research Consortium (CMRC/CCRM)**<<http://mediaresearch.ca/>>**

The Canadian Media Research Consortium promotes economic, social and cultural research in Canadian media. Its objectives are to develop and fund applied research focusing on important issues related to technological change in the media, which are of key interest to policymakers as well as for media organisations, academics, civil society and the general public. Its website, in English and French, has a wide range of recent studies and publications, such as an interesting study of media consumption among the inhabitants of Quebec, another study on Canadians' confidence in the media and an analysis of how social networks are transforming how Canadian citizens access news.

Confessions of an Aca-Fan: The Official Weblog of Henry Jenkins**<<http://www.henryjenkins.org/>>**

This is the official blog of the academic from the US University of South California, Henry Jenkins. In a casual tone, Jenkins explains in his introduction to the blog that this virtual place is somewhere to share his thoughts about many contemporary developments and to showcase his work and that of his students. The blog is constantly updated and is full of information on different areas, such as comics culture, convergence, fan culture, participation, media policy, civic media, media literacy and reality television, among others. The links section is also particularly interesting, with numerous links to media-related sites.