The good, the bad and the ugly - Celebrating Libraries

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➢ Introduction

➢ Why the internet can be good for you

➢ Why the internet can be bad for you

➢ Why the internet can be ugly

➢ Conclusion

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Introduction

This event has been developed to give you a:

➢ taster of the pluses and minuses associated with the internet and enormous variety of information on offer through it

➢ a few basic points to consider when using the internet

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➤ We are able to connect to each other face to face around the world within minutes if not seconds via the likes of Skype VoxOx, Jitsi, Google or Goober

➤ You or I can start up a business online from literally anywhere in the world so long as we have some tech infrastructure to support it. Examples include:

- EBay
- Amazon
- Alibaba

➤ Teenagers are able to find out information on a range of issues they find difficult to talk about with adults

➤ We are all now able to sell or buy from most locations across the planet

➤ Lonely older people who spend more time online are less likely to be depressed and more likely to be intellectually engaged for longer

➤ We can find something out about most people who have had some form of electronic footprint

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➢ Personally we can search across a huge range of open access databases that include:
- Health
- Legislation
- Social sciences
- News
- Arts
- Electronic/mechanical things
- Talk to people we will never meet face to face in online forums on any given subject

➢ We can find a variety of information on a given subject such as health:
- How to eat healthily and where to buy it
- A given illness
- Your doctor and their practice
- The medication
- What and how to exercise
- Health related courses

➢ Can you think of one type of information you have found on the internet which has been/is very useful?

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It is now possible to store (with reasonable safety) copies of so much of your life in a cloud (a form of remote storage) via the Internet. This could include scanned:

➤ Photos
➤ Land and/or house deeds
➤ Forms of ID – residents visa, passport, driver's licence, work ID
➤ Educational certificates – degrees and below
➤ Photos of key assets – jewellery, furniture, books, paintings
➤ Car document ownership papers
➤ Family, friends and work contact details

All critical if you house is burnt down or you are forced to leave home without them. All saveable via the likes of One drive, Dropbox, Google drive, and Box. (All usable on Windows, Mac, Android, iOS however it should be noted that each service has storage constraints)

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➢ Buying online and having that sale haunt your searches afterwards as the search engine tries to sell you more

➢ Only having an online life with friends. Losing the ability to interact directly face to face

➢ We have no choice we all have to have some level of knowledge on this to ensure we can function on a day to day basis across our ever connecting world

➢ Without such knowledge we will not be able to:

- Set up, open and use the phone/laptop

- Know:
  o when to replace the item
  o what apps to get as standard
  o the what and how to security protection

➢ This will make us vulnerable to fraudsters and/or unscrupulous shop keepers willing sell out of date or defunct IT to unknowing customers

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➢ Like most things indulged too much; if we stay on the internet at the expense of the rest of our lives, it will be injurious to health:

- Physically being inactive through too much sitting in front of a screen every day is unhealthy
- It is actually possible to become addicted at the expense of the rest of your life. So much so you forget to go to bed and sleep for days on end leading to sleep deprivation

➢ Either one of us could become a victim of online crime such as:

- Fraud via ID theft leading to poor credit records for years
- A cyber virus; this risk will always be there. Viruses are constantly being sent to all of us hidden in the most innocent of email or message. The sender either doesn't care the damage they can do or wants to access and use your system as part of a crime. Examples of which could be:
  - o Blackmail via a hacked machine or service and shut out. Only able to re-access after making a payment to the hacker
  - o Stalked through online forums, chat rooms and social media. Specifically cyber bullying. This phenomena has grown and obtained national awareness in some countries because of its tragic results (the person being harassed commits suicide)

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➢ Hackers – We need to be aware of them because of our data being held by our government and commercial entities. Policies, processes and regular human and electronic updates and refreshes will keep out most if not all hackers.- So ask when your information is taken about where it is held and how secure that environment is.

➢ Privacy – This is very much at risk if we do not make the right balance between what personal information to share across government, commercial and social entities to keep our business/life functioning successfully. There are businesses who buy and sell information about each of us mostly legally

➢ The Unknown – We do not know what we do not know. So we must be vigilant about the new, evaluate its impact on us personally when it arrives to know if it is a good or bad

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➢ Artificial intelligence (A.I.) - Some level of this is already out there particularly on the security front. A commercial example would be a robot vacuum cleaner which once set up can operate independently. Over the next 10/20 years more products like this will become commercially available and all will have the capacity to be controlled remotely by you via an app on your phone. The downside is that:

- such connectivity will mean more complexity in designing and making the product, so the cost for it is much higher.

- Because of its complexity the energy required to run each new product could be high

- Hackers may maliciously hijack the product and/or make it unusable

- If the product is both desirable and expensive we each run the risk of having it stolen. Phone crime figures for the UK for last year reached *700,000 handsets stolen, a Home Office report revealed on 20/01/2016 (See http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-93597/Mobile-phone-crime-soars.html)*

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To Conclude - Celebrating Libraries

➢ What is clear is that this technological revolution is completely new. At this point in time we can chose not to not have all the gadgets available. Life would be uncomfortable and slower but do-able. However soon making that choice will mean not getting 'that job', 'social welfare', staying in touch with your family and friends (the tyranny of distance), being able to book a holiday, gain extra training or an academic qualification, access news and probably even be able to vote...becoming potentially a off the grid' second class citizen .

➢ 'We need to enter this new era and its issues face on . To manage it appropriately at a personal and national level to retain our security and maximise the opportunities for our collective as well as personal prosperity and well being.

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Thank you for listening

Any questions?

References:
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