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Några forskningsresultat om bloggandet och deliberativ demokrati

1. Internetforskaren Clay Shirky skriver: "A persistent theme among people writing about the social aspects of weblogging is to note (and usually lament) the rise of an A-list, a small set of webloggers who account for a majority of the traffic in the weblog world. This complaint follows a common pattern we've seen with MUDs, BBSes, and online communities like Echo and the WELL. A new social system starts, and seems delightfully free of the elitism and cliquishness of the existing systems. Then, as the new system grows, problems of scale set in. Not everyone can participate in every conversation. Not everyone gets to be heard. Some core group seems more connected than the rest of us, and so on. Se http://www.shirky.com/writings/powerlaw_weblog.html

2. I juli 2008 publicerades en rapport med samma resultat som den ovan. Farrell, Henry John, Lawrence, Eric and Sides, John, Self-Segregation or Deliberation? Blog Readership, Participation and Polarization in American Politics (July 1, 2008). Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1151490>, De skriver:

"There is active debate among political scientists and political theorists over the relationship between participation and deliberation among citizens with different political viewpoints. Internet based blogs provide an important testing ground for these scholars' theories, especially as political activity on the Internet becomes increasingly important. In this article, we use the first major dataset describing blog readership to examine the relationship between deliberation, polarization and political participation among blog readers. We find that, as existing theories might predict, blog readers tend to read blogs that accord with their political beliefs. Cross-cutting readership of blogs on both the left and right of the spectrum is relatively rare. Furthermore, we find strong evidence of polarization among blogreaders, who tend to be more polarized than both non-blog-readers and consumers of various television news, and roughly as polarized as US Senators"

3. En av USA:s främsta "legal scholars", rätts- och demokratiteoretikern Cass Sunstein för fram i stort sett samma sak sin nya bok *INFOTOPIA: HOW MANY MINDS PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE*, Oxford University Press, 2006

4. Pew Internet Research Institute har tittat på den informationsekologi som bloggarna använder och drar slutsatsen att bloggare ofta följer den etablerade debatten och således inte leder den: "Experimental research from the Pew Internet & American Life Project and BuzzMetrics suggests that political bloggers can make an impact on politics, but they often follow the lead of politicians and journalists." http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/105/press_release.asp

5. Till frågan om hur representativa bloggare är: Data från USA visar att "Bloggers are not a homogenous group, but they are an educated and affluent one: three out of four U.S. bloggers are college graduates, and 42% have attended graduate school. They skew male, and more than half have a household income over \$75,000". Således, högt utbildade, 2/3 är män och relativt sett höginkomsttagare. Se <http://www.technorati.com/blogging/state-of-the-blogsphere/who-are-the-bloggers/>