

Away from Pottersville?

(D)H as AS2

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Overview

- 1 Antitrust: economics or politics?
- 2 Trailblazers
- 3 An unoriginal bibliography

Monopoly: an unavoidable doom?



It's a Wonderful Life, 1946

Angels, second class, showing alternatives



- ① antitrust is not about (neo-liberal) economics: it is about democracy
- ② ICT should not be conceived as a black box (either magical or scary), but as a collection of *automata* whose *logos* should be made human again
- ③ the construct of society depends (also) on what we believe about ourselves

1. Luis Brandeis a.k.a. Frank Capra? - 1911

Power, however private, is power

“We are in a position, after the experience of the last twenty years, to state two things: In the first place, that a corporation may well be too large to be the most **efficient** instrument of production and of distribution, and, in the second place, whether it has exceeded the point of greatest economic efficiency or not, it may be too large **to be tolerated among the people who desire to be free**” [Wu, 2018].

2. Machine and prejudice

"Informazione automatica" = "science" without teaching, working like *mimesis*

For this invention will produce forgetfulness in the minds of those who learn to use it, because they will not practice their memory. Their trust in writing, produced by **external characters** (*allogtrion typon*) which are no part of themselves, will discourage the use of their own memory within them. You have invented an elixir not of memory, but of reminding; and you offer your pupils the appearance of wisdom, not true wisdom, for they will read many things without instruction and will therefore seem to know many things, when they are for the most part **ignorant and hard to get along with**, since they are not wise, but only appear wise. (*Phaedrus* 275a)

3. Education: much more than adjusting youth to the world

An unexpected visitor: *Bildung*

The “ideal” of democracy, Brandeis once said, should be “the development of the individual for his own and the common good.” He was in accord with the position taken by contemporary philosopher Wilhelm von Humboldt, who wrote that “the true end of man, or that which is prescribed by the eternal or immutable dictates of reason . . . is the highest and most harmonious development of his powers to a complete and consistent whole.” [Wu, 2018, 39]

Teaching "informatics" as an unfinished task

Much more than teaching to use tools, or to be used as a tool

Moreover, it is a peculiarity of the higher scientific institutions that they always treat science as a problem that has still not been fully resolved and therefore remain constantly engaged in research.

[Humboldt, 1809-10, 1]

Where is the increase in knowledge?

Science is about connecting (Meno, 98a)

There is a new profession of trail blazers, those who find delight in the task of establishing useful **trails** through the enormous mass of the **common record**. The inheritance from the master becomes, not only his additions to the world's record, but for his disciples **the entire scaffolding by which they were erected**. [Bush, 1945]

(Digital?) Humanists as connectors

- Theoretical connections: Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
- Practical connections: making a public use of reason by addressing the reading public
- Educational connections: introducing learners within a world that has still not been fully resolved, rather than training them

Taking a stand: where is the increase in - social - knowledge?

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Teledidattica: proprietaria e privata o libera e pubblica?

Di Maria Chiara Penabaz - 4 Agosto 2020

Storia di un'inchiesta che si è fatta da sé

In questi mesi, non volendo essere usata dalle piattaforme proprietarie raccomandate per la teledidattica, ho sperimentato alternative libere, e, fra queste, sia i sistemi di teleconferenza basati su Zoom di Zoomlascasawork, sia, direttamente, quelli offerti da uno dei suoi partecipanti, il GARR.

Non potendo permettermi altro, ho privato solo quanto messo gratuitamente a disposizione per far fronte all'emergenza pandemica: e mi sono resa conto che, in Italia, non avrei potuto trovare

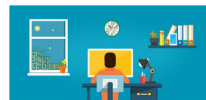
key4biz

SCEGLIERE IL GARR

**Il Senato usa Zoom,
l'interesse dello
Stato va al di là
della convenienza
prestazionale ed
economica**

di Enrico Nardelli, professore di Informatica
all'Università Roma Tor Vergata e
presidente di Informatics Europe
17 Giugno 2020, ore 9:15

Lettera aperta sulla didattica a distanza



Greta Franzini - 15 Dicembre 2020 - Annunci

L'Associazione per l'Informatica Umanistica e la Cultura Digitale (AIUCD) ritiene urgente sollecitare l'attenzione del Governo Italiano e in particolare del Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca sulla svolta fondamentale impressa dalla pandemia da Covid-19 nell'applicazione della tecnologia dell'informazione all'insegnamento, a tutti i



Tim Wu (2018)

The Curse of Bigness. Antitrust in the New Gilded Age

https://econ.utah.edu/antitrust-conference/session_material/Curse%20of%20the%20Bigness.pdf



Wilhelm von Humboldt (1809-10)

On the Internal and External Organization of the Higher Scientific Institutions in Berlin

http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=3642&language=english



Vannevar Bush (1945)

As we may think

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1945/07/as-we-may-think/303881/>