

Extended Abstract Comment Form

~~.....Preconference Symposium "Interrogating Information Realities of.....~~
Information and Communication Systems" ASIST 2006.

~~.....Please fill out the following information about the abstract that you are~~
~~.....reviewing for the preconference symposium. Use as much space as you~~
~~.....think is necessary.~~

Name of commenter _____ **Chi-Shiou Lin** _____

**1. Title of abstract reviewed: Indiana's Community Networking Movement:
Web Sites Then and Now**

2. Eprint # of abstract reviewed: 1476

3. The main question or concern this research addresses is:

**The current status of Indiana's community networks, the changes over years
since their inception, and the roles of various actors (state-level &
organizational) play in the process.**

4. The most interesting thing about the research described by the abstract is:

**The use of social informatics theory to analyze the development of community
networks and their interactions with various actors.**

5. The biggest question I had after reading the abstract was:

I was somewhat confused by the methodology description:

First, the project description seems to suggest the study would involve some sort of historical comparative analysis (“movement”, “now and then”), but how the goal will be achieved and what sources will be used to get there is not quite clear to me.

Second, the abstract indicates that grounded theory was used to interpret data, but it also says a coding sheet developed by the previous researchers was used in the analysis. The two means seem contradictory. As far as I understand, grounded theorists (including those of the Glaserian approach and those of the Strauss-Corbin approach) generally argue against the use of existing concepts/codes to analyze data – codes should be generated from data through the processes of open coding, axial coding & selective coding. How this study makes use of a coding scheme with grounded theory methodology needs further explanation.

[These GT Resources might be useful]

Glaser, B. (1978) *Theoretical Sensitivity*. Mill Valley, CA: Sociology Press.

Glaser, B. (1998) *Doing Grounded Theory: Issues and Discussions*. Mill Valley, CA: Sociology Press.

Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1998) *Basics of Qualitative Research*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Finally, the preliminary results indicate the community networks were a partially successful project. However, how this evaluation was made was not quite clear in the abstract. I would like to know about the evaluative criteria if this study does pursue a comparative perspective (either historical or cross-state comparisons).

6. The author should look at the following topics or sources as they continue their study:

The topic of this study reminds me some papers that I read where the authors used Actor Network Theory to study the societal ICT phenomenon. This theoretical approach might also be of interest to your study.

Walsham, G., & Sahay, S. (1999) GIS for district-level administration in India: problems and opportunities. *MIS Quarterly* 23:1, p.39-65.

Callon, M. & Law, J. (1989) On the construction of sociotechnical networks: content and context revisited. In *Knowledge and Society*, v.8, p.57-83. (JAI Press)

Thank you for completing the comment form. Please save this form to your desktop, and if possible convert to PDF format. You will then need to upload the completed form to dLIST. Please see the following website for further instructions on how to upload your comments:

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