

Engaging the important questions



1. What areas are missing?
2. What should be added?
3. What should be changed?

VISION
 CIS conducts interdisciplinary, high impact research on information & society, focusing on the Internet, technology, and information and their interrelations with societies and their government, business, and non-profit institutions.
 Research is organized into four pillars:

Information Policy

Information policy focuses on regulation (state-regulation and self-regulation)--the socially constructed procedures, agreements, and treaties used to guide behavior. Additionally, information policy emphasizes the articulation and enforcement of these regulations.

Most decision-makers, policy-makers, and scholars are interested in the following overarching questions:

- How should cyberspace be regulated, to what extent, by whom, and through what mechanisms?
- How should we define basic rights in an information era? Who defines these rights?

- Areas of Research::
- Gatekeeping and Information control
 - Free speech
 - Privacy
 - Intellectual property
 - Access to justice

Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion examines factors that affect the capabilities and potential of citizens, individuals, communities, and societies to participate in the information era. Today, main-stream studies are shifting from a concentration on infrastructure and affordability questions to understanding questions of usage, e-literacy, skills, and communal/governmental support of specific populations.

Overarching questions are:

- How should we measure digital inclusion?
- What accounts for the wide disparities of access to information technologies?
- How do we empower citizens, individuals, communities and societies through information and communication technologies?
- How do information policies enable or inhibit participation in the benefits of the information era?

- Areas of Research:
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
 - Barriers and opportunities to access in low resource environments
 - eSkills and employability
 - Rural youth and entrepreneurship
 - Impact evaluation of community technology programs
 - Access to technology, internet

Cultural Dynamics & Diversity

Cultural dynamics explores how information and communications technologies change and transform cultures, and vice versa, how different populations change and use information and technology in context.

Overarching questions are:

- In what ways can information and communication technologies be helpful in sustaining an ecology comprising distinctive cultures?
- How do we accommodate cultural differences in seeking to share knowledge from around the world?
- In what ways can information technology improve understanding within and among different cultures?
- Technology enables individuals to be highly connected with other individuals, but does this high degree of connectivity lead to a higher quality of life?
- How will the expectations of the generation growing up in a digital world ("millennial" or "digital natives") affect organizational structures and cultures?

- Areas of Research:
- Quality of Life
 - Civic engagement
 - Digital Natives
 - Social and political impacts
 - Community and virtual communities

Practical Implications

Studies on practical implications explore ways in which technology or information procedures can be helpful to different practices (in work environment, daily life etc..).

Overarching questions are:

- How do information, technology and people improve efficiency, interactions, processes and usage in context?
- How do mobile technologies increase the efficiency of eGovernment field-workers?
- How can information technologies enable the growing population of seniors to improve their quality of life?
- How can universities transform the learning experience for students using information technology?

- Areas of Research:
- Individuals
 - e-Government
 - e-Business
 - Healthcare
 - Education/instruction
 - Organizational structures

