

“Creative Collaboration  
for the Information Renaissance:  
Weblogs build Distributed Community”

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# 1.1: Distinguishing Characteristics of the European Renaissance

- Book Publishing Technology
- Idealism
- Scientific Method
- Naturalism and Secularism
- Fragmentation and Nationalism
- Exploration and Discovery
- Humanism
- Individualism
- *Homo faber* (“Man the maker”)

Kenneth J. Atchity. ed. (1996.) *The Renaissance Reader*.  
New York: Harper Collins Publishers, with changes.

# 1.2: Distinguishing Characteristics of the Information Renaissance

- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Knowledge Society
- Information Economy
- Globalism
- Universal vs. Tribal
- Exploration, Discovery and Travel
- Search for Synthesis
- Collaboration
- Community
- *Homo sapiens* — named by Linnaeus 1758 —  
 (“Human the knower”)

Jay Gillette, Chin-gi Hong and others (Ball State University);  
John Naisbitt. (1994.) *Global Paradox*. New York: Avon.

## 2: Distributed Collaborative Community (DCC)

Research: Intranet proprietary v. internet public platform

### 2.1 Proprietary intranet collaboration platform—

- good for privacy & security
- designed for hierarchical work groups
- doesn't seem to build community
- may impede creativity
- corporate model works as designed; “tyranny of architecture” problem

### 2.2 Public internet megablog platform—

- builds community
- brings out individual and group creativity
- encourages collaboration, not project management
- too public; may cause paradox: “writer's inhibition” or “indiscrete exhibitionism”
- model is “meeting in the town square” not “artisans in a studio”

# 3: Experimental Community Megablog

[www.cicsworld.org](http://www.cicsworld.org)

## 3.1 How it works—

- individual weblogs post → input to community megablog → output
- last post goes to top & weblog name goes tops blogroll
- the game is on!—get your post to the top & keep your weblog top

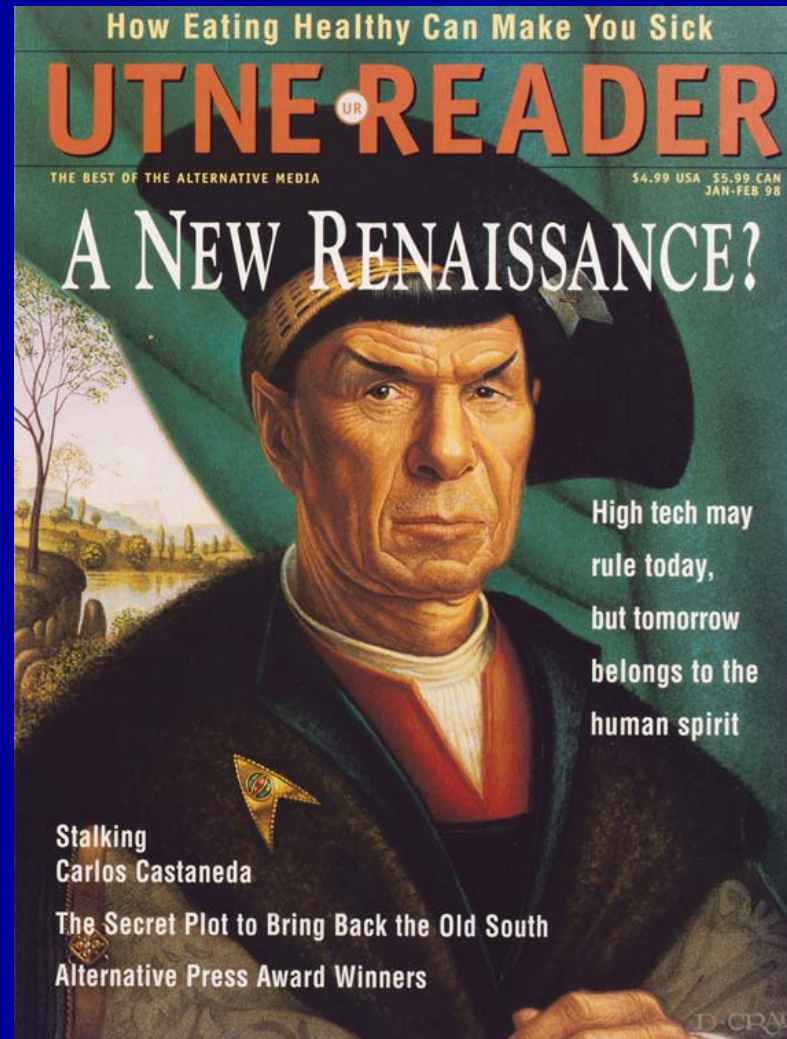
## 3.2 Community behavior outcomes—

- “Daily newspaper” effect; read once, but follow update all day
- One-click to URL reads latest weblogs of whole group
- One more click gets to individual weblog for more information
- “what are *they* saying?” “what are *we* saying?” “what am *I* saying?”

# 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.1 Collaborative intranets have their place—traditional “command & control” organizational work
- 4.2 Use Internet community megablog to build distributed collaborative community (DCC)
- 4.3 Use creative ICT to advance today’s information renaissance through collaboration and community
- 4.4 In our information renaissance: Species *homo sapiens* evolves & comes into its own—as “human the knower”—we become our true selves at last

# Thank You—and Discussion



*Utne* Magazine's most popular cover (Jan-Feb 1998 issue) 7

# References and Bibliography

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Experimental Community Megablog: [www.cicsworld.org](http://www.cicsworld.org)

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