

Week 13 in CS 234

Tuesday, 11/28/17

1. Class Discussion on the two papers: *Digital Na(t)ives? Variation in Internet Skills and Uses among members of the “Net Generation”* and *Are today’s youth digital natives?.*
Read the two papers, come prepared to have a discussion on the questions listed below.
2. New topic: Multiple Linear Regression.

Friday, 12/01/17

1. Class discussion on your findings from Project 2, Google Searches. Upload the draft of your project results online, share link with Eni before class start.
2. New topic: Unsupervised learning: Clustering.

Guiding questions for the class discussion: Digital Natives

Paper 1: *Digital Na(t)ives? Variation in Internet Skills and Uses among members of the “Net Generation”* by Eszter Hargittai

1. What is the motivation for this study?
2. What kind of social inequality is the author worried about? Why?
3. What independent and dependent variables does she measure? How does she come up with the list of such variables?
4. How did she measure the independent variables? What decisions did she make? Do you agree with her choices? [Read the notes at the end too.]
5. How did she measure the dependent variables? If it’s not clear from the paper, can you follow up with the provided references and find out?
6. What is the setup for the data collection? What choices did she make and why?
7. The paper nicely shows all the steps of the [data science cycle](#) we have discussed often in class. Try to map the paper sections to the cycle. In which parts was hypothesis testing used?
8. The author mentions 15 times the phrase “control for”, as in “controlling for basic Internet access” or “controlling for other background characteristics”. What does she mean with that? Are these controls performed in the same way? Explain.

9. The author uses “multiple linear regression” to model the data. When you look at the column of variables in the Table 4, do you see anything that is missing? Why?
10. Which of the two models in Table 4 is better? How can you tell that from the results?
11. What are the most relevant findings of this paper from your perspective?
12. The author concludes that her study points to the existence of social inequality in Internet skills within the “digital natives” cohort. Do you agree? If you do, what is that can be done to decrease the gap? **What can you do to contribute?**

Paper 2: *Are today's youth digital natives?* By danah boyd.

(Chapter 7 in the book “It’s complicated - The social lives of networked teens”)

Before reading the chapter, read the 2.5 page Preface of the book.

1. What is danah boyd’s motivation for writing this book?
2. What do we learn about the concept of “digital natives” from reading this chapter, that wasn’t touched upon in Hargittai’s paper?
3. Many of you had not created a web page for themselves until this class. What does that say about your media literacy? What has been part of your digital media literacy education so far (in all your years of education)?
4. How do the issues raised by boyd compare with your experiences as “digital natives”? For example: critical thinking to evaluate web sources, politics of algorithms, Wikipedia, Google, Facebook, etc.
5. Although boyd writes about the same topic “digital natives”, her chapter is very different from Hargittai’s paper. What is the reason for this difference?
6. What else (not mentioned in Hargittai’s paper) does boyd bring into the equation when talking about digital natives and media literacy?
7. Can you comment on the cons and pros of the approach used by danah boyd to deal with this question? What about the cons and pros of the approach used by Eszter Hargittai in her paper? How would the “ideal” study of digital natives look like?
8. How would you go about studying the digital media literacy of Wellesley students?