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In Our Time – Converging to a Culture of Continuous Present

Telecommunications convergence is usually addressed from the side of technology. In contrast I am interested in the new cultural patterns that tools and their daily uses create. For example the traditional functions of *recording, publication, multiplication, collection, organization, categorization, storage, retrieval and disposition* of information become subjects of important transformations in the digital age. Formerly the above steps of *archiving* followed one another in strict order and there was a *precise date* assigned to each of them. Today the use of version numbers, „last updated” and „last viewed” indications show that our old conceptual frameworks on *time* collide with the new reality of global communication networks (cf. Kristóf Nyíri).

One of the reviewers of Manuel Castells’ gigantic volumes on *The Information Age*, Felix Stalder suggests a *binary notion of time and space* for the digital world. „Binary time expresses no sequence but knows only two states: either presence or absence, either now or never. [...] Binary space, then, is a space where the distance can only be measured as two states: zero distance (inside the network) or infinite distance (outside the network), here or nowhere.” This can remind us of the once fascinating, now seemingly outworn ideas of Benjamin Lee Whorf about the Hopi Indian language, which shall make difference only between two possible aspects of time and space: the *objective or manifested* and the *subjective or manifesting*.

I will apply these visionary statements in showing and analyzing how digital media lack the ability of definitely freezing the flow of time into *eternal punctual memorials*, the necessary building blocks of an articulated past. The missing of these may converge our culture to that of a continuous and homogeneous present.

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