The'grey digital divide': Perception, exclusion and barriers of access to the Internet for older people

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Peter Millward

Abstract

Focussing upon the elderly, this article utilises data discovered as researcher for Age Concern in Wigan (U.K.) and examines the feelings of older people toward the Internet. It explores the reasons why some clients and volunteers choose to use the Internet, whilst others do not, relating these perspectives to the organisations, alongside broader national (U.K.) and EU, commitments to reduce the digital divide. The article argues that for the elderly Internet usability is based upon more than availability of technology. Instead a lack of Web skills among the elderly leads to an opinion that information and communication technologies are for the young, leading to a long-term damage lack of interest in using the Internet.

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The Grey Digital Divide: Bridging the Gap Between Older Adults and the Internet for Improving the Education of Their Children. Presented By Steven De Leon. We've All Been There… (Please Click on Picture). A digital divide is an inequality between groups, in terms of access to, use of, or knowledge of Information and Communication Technologies (Digital Divide, 2012). The U.S.= Inequality between wealthy and poor. The "Grey" aspect refers to older adults who are excluded from the internet for various reasons (Millward, 2003). The "grey digital divide": Perception, exclusion and barrier of access to the Internet for Older People. First Monday, 8(7), 1-18. Retrieved from http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/background/themes/digital_divide/grey_digital_divide.pdf. A digital divide is an economic and social inequality in the access to, use of, or impact of information and communication technologies (ICT). The divide within countries (such as the digital divide in the United States) may refer to inequalities between individuals, households, businesses, or geographic areas, usually at different socioeconomic levels or other demographic categories. The divide between differing countries or regions of the world is referred to as the global digital divide, examining