

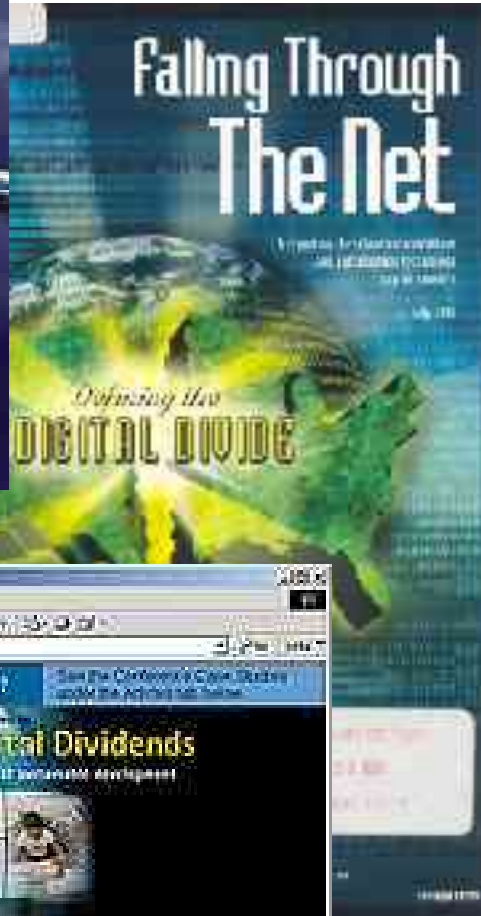
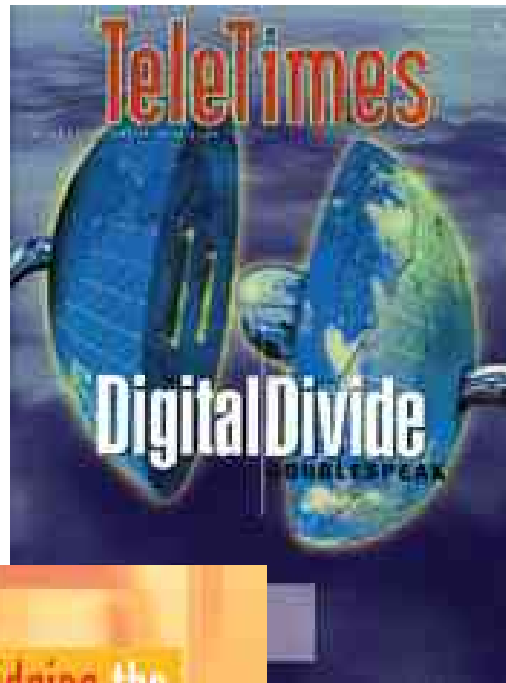
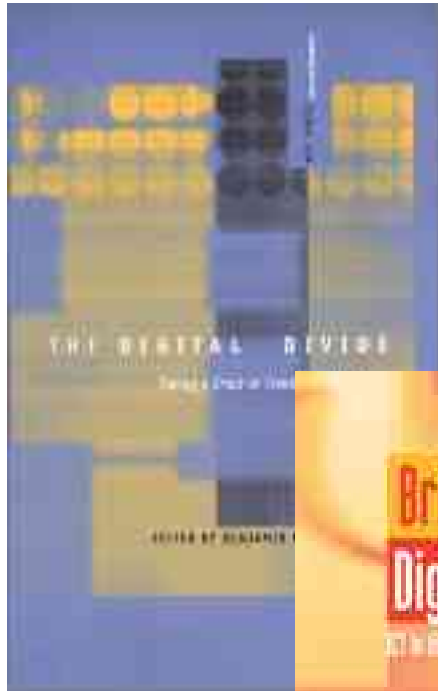
Second Thoughts:

Toward a Critique of the Digital Divide

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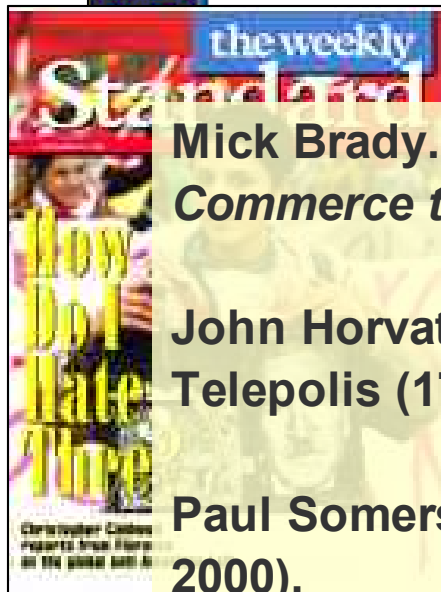
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The logo for TELEPOLIS, featuring the word in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

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Mick Brady. "The Digital Divide Myth." *E-Commerce times* (4 August 2000).

John Horvath. "Delving into the Digital Divide." *Telepolis* (17 July 2000).

Paul Somerson. "Great Divide." *ZDNet* (17 April 2000).

James Crabtree. "The Digital Divide is Rubbish-- A Kind of Exclusion that Shouldn't Worry Us." *New Statesman* (14 May 2001).

crit-i-cism \ˈkrɪ-t-ə,-sɪz-əm\ *n* (1607) 1 *n* : the act of criticizing usu. unfavorably **b** : a critical observation or remark **c** : CRITIQUE 2 : the art of evaluating or analyzing works of art or literature 3 : the scientific investigation of literary documents (as the Bible) in regard to such matters as origin, text, composition, or history

crit-i-cize \ˈkrɪ-t-ə,-sɪz\ *vb* -cized; -cizing *v* (1649) : to act as a critic ~ *vt* 1 : to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly : EVALUATE 2 : to find fault with : point out the faults of — **crit-i-ciz-able** \-sɪ-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **crit-i-ciz-er** *n*

SYN CRITICIZE, REPREHEND, BLAME, CENSURE, REPRIBATE, CONDEMN, DENOUNCE mean to find fault with openly. CRITICIZE implies finding fault esp. with methods or policies or intentions; REPRIBATE implies both

criticism
of praise
something
of autho
strong di
an unqu
CONDEMN

cri-tique \ˈkrɪ-tɪk\ *n* (1700) *esp* : a criticism
critique *vt* (1700) : to criticize
crit-ter \ˈkrɪ-tər\ *n* (1700) : a critic
croak \ˈkrɔːk\ *v* (1500) : to make a deep harsh sound

"A critique of any theoretical system is not an examination of its flaws and imperfections. It is not a set of criticisms designed to make the system better. It is an analysis that focuses on the grounds of that system's possibility. The critique reads backwards from what seems natural, obvious, self-evident, or universal, in order to show that these things have their history, their reasons for being the way they are, their effects on what follows from them, and that the starting point is not a given but a construct, usually blind to itself" (Barbara Johnson, 1981).

Terminology

Origin, evolution, and competing definitions of the phrase “Digital Divide”

Structure

Examination of the binary logic that organizes the problem of the Digital Divide

Form

Investigation of the theory of technological determinism that informs the debate concerning the Digital Divide

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Conclusion

Critique of the digital divide does not contest the data that has been collected, dispute the analyses that have been published, or undermine the work that has been and continues to be done.

The purpose of critique is to assist these and future endeavors by making evident their starting points, stakes, and consequences.

