Beyond the Politics of Making Things Visible: Crawling, Scraping and Mapping Issues with the Web

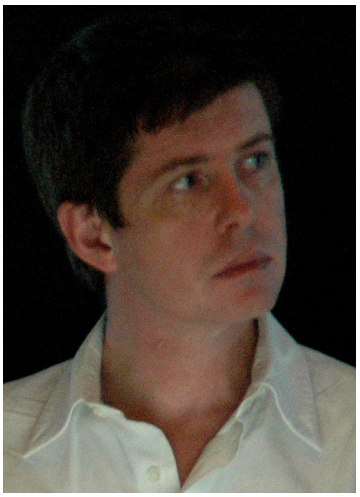
A Sara Fine Institute Symposium

Presented by: Richard Rogers

October 11, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
IS Building, Room 501(135 N. Bellefield Drive)

Crawl Myanmar E-commerce sites and discover links with Western firms. Scrape news pictures in the U.S.A. and Europe, and find different pictures associated with Abu Ghraib. Locate Iranian political, social and religious networks, and discover censored Web sites via transparent proxies. The Web provides research opportunities that would have been improbable or impossible in the past. Web issue mapping may make things visible, but with which consequences? This talk provides an overview of Govcom.org work, including methods, techniques, analytical tools and info-political implications.

Richard Rogers is Head of New Media at the University of Amsterdam, and Director of the Govcom.org Foundation, Amsterdam, which is the group responsible for the Issue Crawler network mapping software (issuecrawler.net) and other allied info-political tools (tools.issuecrawler.net). Rogers is author of Technological Landscapes (Royal College of Art, London, 1999), editor of Preferred Placement: Knowledge Politics on the Web (Jan van Eyck Editions, Maastricht, 2000) and author of Information Politics on the Web (MIT Press, 2004), awarded best 2005 information science book of the year by the American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIST). Rogers currently heads the Digital Methods Initiative, TEMLab, University of Amsterdam. Professor Rogers' home page is at: http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/r.a.rogers



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