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The anti-democratic employment of school cyberspace. A pilgrimage into an Arab winter?

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Abstract

In this article I wish to bring critical attention to the manner in which the Internet and intranet are employed as pedagogical space in schools. Within this article I also articulate my struggle to understand and conduct research in this place of electronic communication. Informed by Nietzsche and some biblical scripture, I suggest that what we are finding in education is a church of the intranet that is worshiped as a shelter of safety for educational learning. However, my contention is that a lack of control of uploaded and downloaded digital media results in spaces which mirror extant societal prejudices and bigotry. To evidence my argument I present specific data from English schools' colonisation of cyberspace and suggest that in this terra nullius a new civilisation, constructed upon old world ideals, 'conformed' the construction of the disabled indigene.

Keywords: the Internet, disability, cyberspace