



INTERNET AND DEMOCRACY

**Does Internet influence on
democracy?**

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INTERNET AND DEMOCRACY

- civil associations
- Benhabib:
the public sphere in deliberative democracy - competitive, argumentative- deliberative networks and associations
- Fraser:
- many public spheres competing for attention
sexual harassment




Fraser:

opportunities for subordinate groups to convince dominant groups that their concerns are legitimate and worthy of debate



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- Media involvement in reporting on proposals –generate enough interest
- Mass media - the main arena
- opposite interests, demands and values - act - communication - public acceptance - legitimate

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- Development of Internet:
 - no borders of physical space and presence,
 - no unequal distribution of information,
 - enables users to:
 - participate in de-liberalization of public sphere
 - participate in process of taking decisions
- Internet as a possibility:
- way of political integration and realization of ideal of political equality

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- Internet - restrictive elements:
- Participation
 - Time, leisure and wealth
 - Gender
 - Literacy and knowledge
- Political engagement and personality
 - Heterogeneity
 - Anonymity
 - Equality



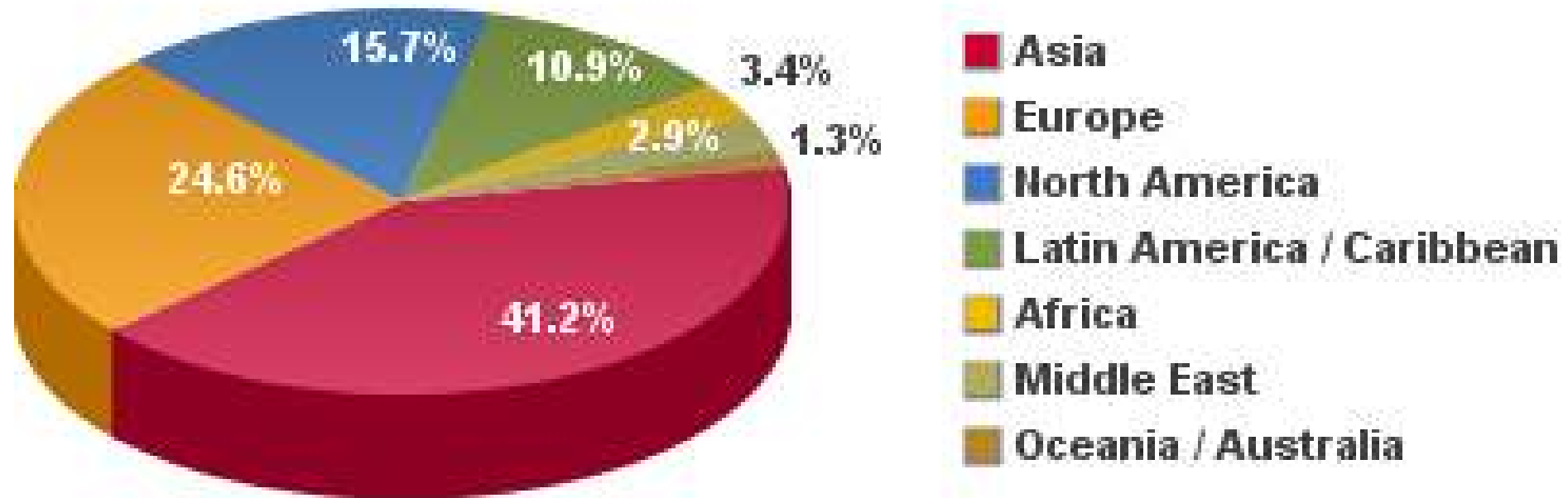


Time, leisure and wealth

Links to the 53 European Countries

- 803,903,540 population estimate for Europe in 2008
- 390,141,073 Internet users and a 48.5% penetration as of December 31/08
- 114,992,952 Broadband connections, 14.3% penetration as of Nov.30/08

World Internet Users by World Regions

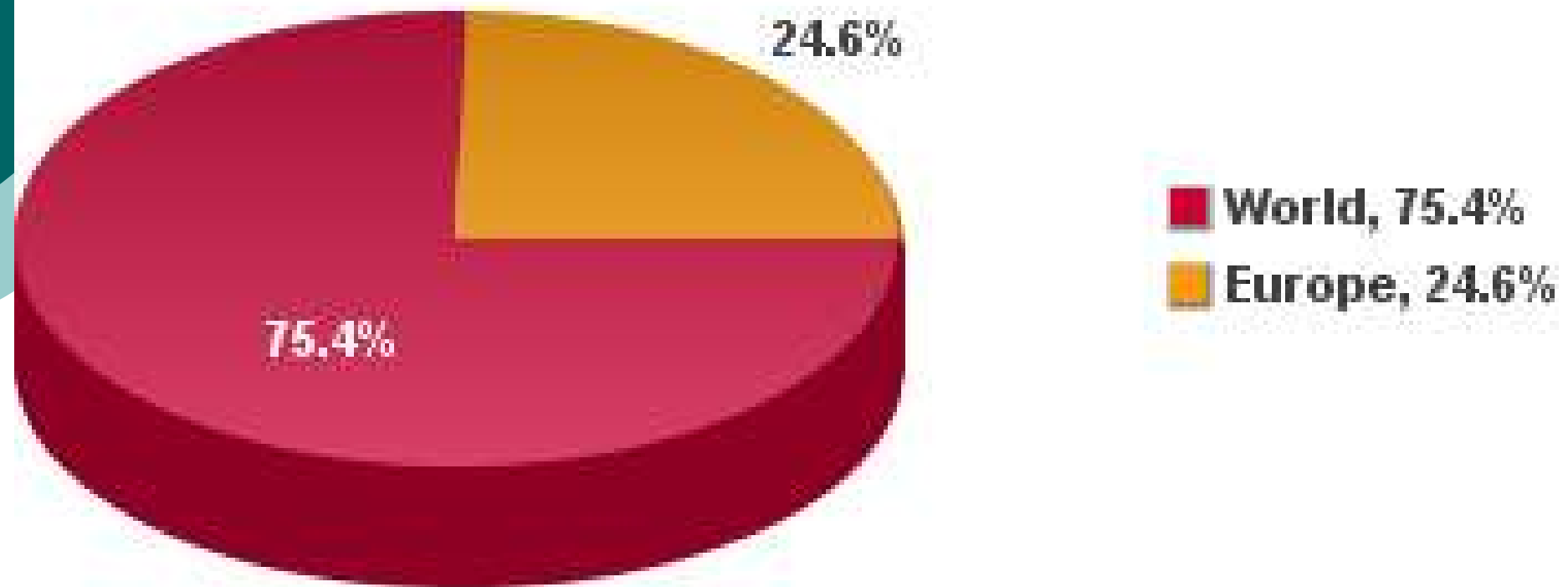


Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm

1,596,270,108 Internet users for March 31, 2009

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Internet Users in Europe March 2009



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com
Based on 1,596,270,108 estimated world Internet users
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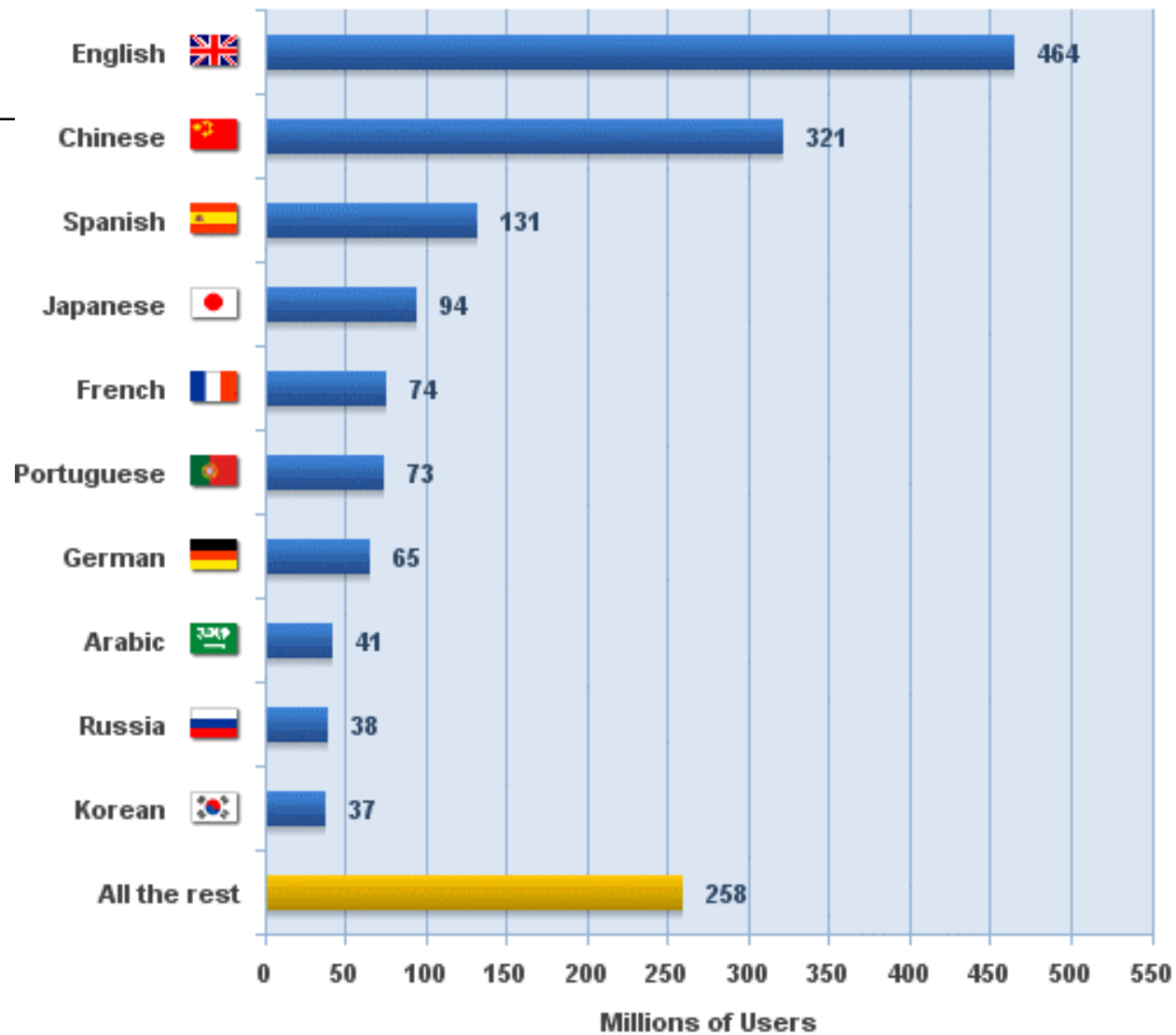
Literacy and knowledge

Top Ten Languages Used in the Web

(Number of Internet Users by Language)

TOP TEN LANGUAGES IN THE INTERNET	Internet Users by Language	Internet Penetration by Language	Growth in Internet (2000 - 2008)	Internet Users % of Total	World Population for this Language (2008 Estimate)
<u>English</u>	463,790,410	37.2 %	226.7 %	29.1 %	1,247,862,351
<u>Chinese</u>	321,361,613	23.5 %	894.8 %	20.1 %	1,365,138,028
<u>Spanish</u>	130,775,144	32.0 %	619.3 %	8.2 %	408,760,807
<u>Japanese</u>	94,000,000	73.8 %	99.7 %	5.9 %	127,288,419
<u>French</u>	73,609,362	17.8 %	503.4 %	4.6 %	414,043,695
<u>Portuguese</u>	72,555,800	29.7 %	857.7 %	4.5 %	244,080,690
<u>German</u>	65,243,673	67.7 %	135.5 %	4.1 %	96,402,666
<u>Arabic</u>	41,396,600	14.2 %	1,545.2 %	2.6 %	291,073,346
<u>Russian</u>	38,000,000	27.0 %	1,125.8 %	2.4 %	140,702,094
<u>Korean</u>	36,794,800	51.9 %	93.3 %	2.3 %	70,944,739
TOP 10 LANGUAGES	1,337,527,402	30.4 %	329.2 %	83.8 %	4,406,296,835

Top 10 Languages in the Internet millions of users



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm

Estimated Internet users are 1,596,270,108 for 2009Q1

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Minnesota E-Democracy www.e-democracy.org



E-Democracy.Org is a non-profit, non-partisan, volunteer-based project whose [mission](#) is to expand participation and build stronger democracies and communities through the power of information and communication technologies and strategies.

We created the world's first election information website in 1994. Looking forward to 2008 and beyond, we've adopted a new [strategic plan](#).

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OpenDemocracy believes that democracy should be global, open and inclusive



- We aim to shape a community that grants access to anyone, that is open to unheard voices and facilitates debate and participation
- It is our conviction that dialogue is crucial for the creation of a peaceful global community
- We seek to provide a platform where dialogue is fostered on the basis of openness and accessibility

www.opendemocracy.net/



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- 'Measuring the Information Society'
- International Telecommunication Union; March 2009
- over 4 billion mobile cellular subscriptions, 1.3 billion fixed telephone lines and close to a quarter of the world's population using the Internet (end 2008)

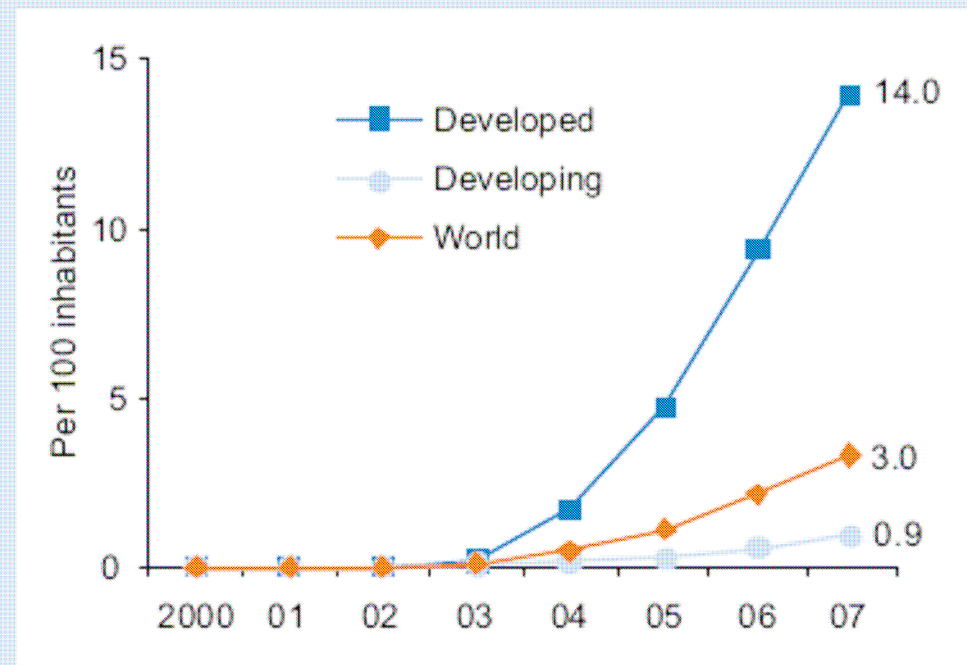


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- New trends:
- fixed broadband networks are increasingly being complemented by mobile broadband networks

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Chart 2.5: Mobile broadband subscriptions



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database.



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- development ICT in 2002 i 2007
- all countries have improved their ICT levels during the five-year period
- While Western Europe and Eastern Asia have made significant gains on the IDI, Eastern Europe is the region that has improved most its ICT levels

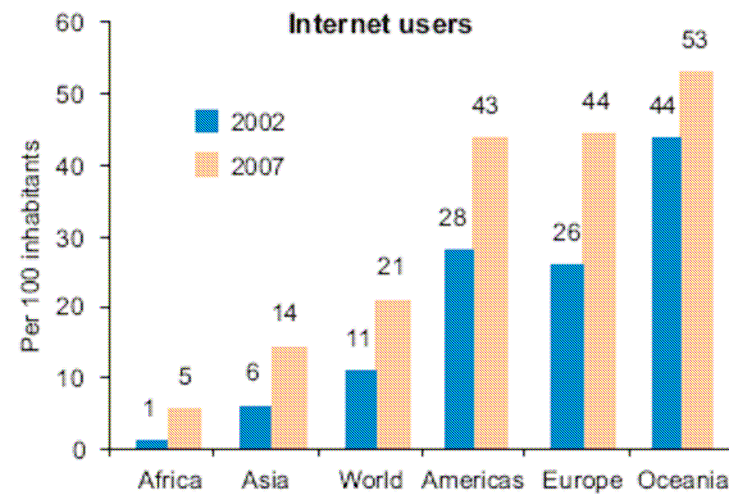
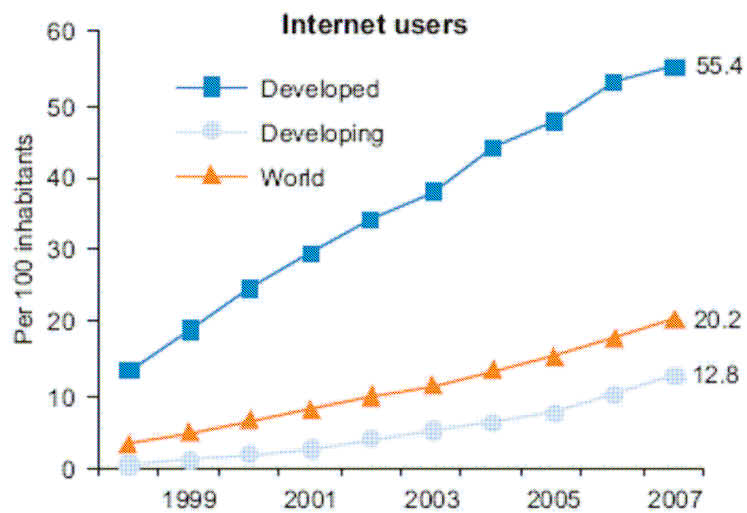


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- Despite increased access to ICT in many parts of the world, the magnitude of the digital divide is almost the same as five years earlier
- There is a strong link between the level of ICT and the level of income, and the relationship is growing stronger over time

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Chart 2.3: How many are online?



Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database.



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- limited revitalization of the Internet public sphere and democracy
- ability of small interest groups, individuals to present their points of view to a large number of people
- not revolutionary change to participatory democracy- an opportunity for more voices in the public sphere
- online communities enables people to communicate freely, without social or class prejudices in anonymity
- the problem remains: time, leisure and wealth
- strong link between the level of ICT and the level of income
- demands for education at level of use of new ICT, its possibilities, literacy, democracy