

# GLOBALIZATION, LOCALIZATION AND COMMUNITY ONLINE

## INFO 300 Intellectual Foundations of Informatics

### **A BIT OF LIGHT READING (for lab Friday, December 6)**

On Tuesday we took up and in lab Friday we'll continue with questions related to globalization, localization, and community with respect to the Internet. With the global nature of the Internet -- where even the simple act of publishing a Web page means access to millions of people on every continent -- what does it mean to speak of cultural difference? Of community? Has the Internet decoupled the expectation that communities be local (or at least that community members be co-located) or even exist outside of the Internet? And, at the same time, in what ways can online interactions support local communities? We take up these and a host of other questions related to communities, cross-cultural issues, and online interactions.

Please read the following articles. This should be fun reading that will provide you with a breadth of examples and perspectives for thinking about the questions above.

*What Will Be*, Chapter 13: Electronic proximity (pp. 277-294).

Graves, M., Grisedale, S., and Grunsteidl, A. (1998). Unfamiliar ground: Designing technology to support rural healthcare workers in India. *SIGCHI Bulletin*, 30, 2, 134-143.

Van Tassel. (1991). Yakety-Yak, do talk back!: PEN, the nation's first publicly funded electronic network, makes a difference in Santa Monica. In R. Kling (Ed.) *Computerization and Controversy: Value Conflicts and Social Choices (2nd ed.)* (pp. 547-551). Boston: Academic Press.