

One can examine information politics on the Web from one of two perspectives: as being either "back-end" (that of search engine technology) or "front-end" (the accessible public Web sites characterized by diversity, inclusivity, and relative prominence). For the purpose of this study, Rogers developed four political software tools to capture information about Viagra; to measure the pressure of social debate; to measure the campaigning behavior of stable sets of NGO actors; and to measure changing political party commitments.

Chapter two discusses medieval practices of knowledge seeking and how contemporary knowledge-seeking technique is based on the old practice of collaborative filtering. The chapter also offers an entertaining analysis of official and unofficial accounts of the health benefits of Viagra. On the basis of his findings on how information politics works, Rogers argues that the Web should be—and can be—a "collision space" for official and unofficial accounts of reality.

Chapter three describes how one may capture "de-territorialization," or the displacement of issue making by select social groups and the provision of decision-making input to networks, actors, and positions outside the organization. According to the author, when a "de-territorialized" issue has been located, the organization of national public debate becomes a matter of re-territorialization. Rogers discusses the recent efforts made to stage a national public debate on the safety of genetically modified food, and how the Web may aid in showing when and why re-territorialization moves may

fail. Rogers and his colleagues follow, map, and visualize the national and international circulation of information pertaining to issues of food safety and genetically modified food. This leads them to question the Web's aptitude to reveal and accommodate different forms of democratic activities.

Presented earlier at the international FirstMonday Conference in Maastricht, chapter four attempts to defend the creation, as well as a particular design, of an issue stream dedicated to civil society. The defense is based on empirical findings concerning the inadequacies of press coverage of civil society issues as well and of the summiteers to G8 in Genoa. The findings also indicate an additional item of interest to many people curious about Web source dynamics vis-à-vis print media. The researchers found streams need not be refreshed daily; monthly or bimonthly will do.

The discussion in chapter five, presented earlier at the University of Amsterdam, looks at how political strategists deal with press attention. He utilized an instrument that watches the press in a particular way to gain an indication of how well or poorly a party and its issues are represented. Here, the stream attempts to capture and display a politics-of-press attention. Chapter six summarizes all the issues discussed in the book.

Information Politics on the Web is an important contribution to the ongoing debate about Web epistemology. It identifies the cultures, techniques, and devices behind recommended information on the Web, analyzing not only the political content of Web sites, but also the politics behind the Web's infrastructure. The book will be of interest to information specialists, politicians, government, and nongovernment organizations. —*Kaba Abdoulaye, Al-Ain University of Science & Technology, United Arab Emirates.*

Stockdale, Eric. *'Tis Treason, My Good Man": Four Revolutionary Presidents and a Piccadilly Bookshop.* New Castle,

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Del.: Oak Knoll; London: British Library, 2005. 421p. alk. paper, \$45 (ISBN 1584561580 [US]; 0712306994 [UK]). LC 2004-63644.

Eric Stockdale, distinguished lawyer, historian, and author, reveals a unique, but vital, connection between the owner of a small London bookshop and some of America's founding fathers. Each chapter of the monograph provides evidence that the London bookseller and publisher, John Stockdale (no relation to author), had ties and connections with several principal figures in American history, including four American presidents, two early American authors, Benjamin Franklin, Tom Paine, and many more. Eric Stockdale has held many positions including serving as a barrister, circuit judge, attorney, and visiting professor. Over the years, he has written a variety of books pertaining to both historical and legal subjects.

The purpose of this publication is to present evidence that many of America's founding fathers and important historical figures were advocates for freedom of the press and freedom of speech. John Stockdale played an important role in the evolution and emergence of the book trade business in the United States, as well as in the publication of early U.S. patriots' papers and correspondence. This monograph is organized in a way that facilitates the telling of the life story of John Stockdale, but also to illuminate stories and events surrounding specific individuals who contributed to American and British history as well as to the book trade business. Eric Stockdale arranged the information into chapters according to people and events included (e.g., "John Almon and John Wilkes"; "Benjamin Franklin and Almon"; "Henry Laurens and Independence"; and "Thomas Jefferson and John Stockdale").

In the first five chapters, people who encouraged and assisted John Stockdale with the opening of a bookshop are introduced. Young John Stockdale worked for a London publisher, John Almon, who

was known for publishing "a good many more titles by Americans and about the American controversy than any other London bookseller." In 1780, after Almon retired from the book publishing business, John Stockdale opened up his own book shop in London and became "a vigorous backer of books by Americans and on American subjects, and he remained so until at least the close of the century."

John Stockdale was fortunate to inherit many of John Almon's connections with Americans, but Stockdale also developed many new relationships with other prominent Americans primarily through Thomas Day (one of the first authors published by Stockdale). Through Day's acquaintance, John Stockdale was introduced and formed ties with John Laurens (one of General Washington's closest aides), Henry Laurens (president of Congress in Philadelphia), Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, John Jay, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Dr. David Ramsay (America's first historian), and Dr. Jedidiah Morse (Father of American Geography).

Chapter six discusses how John Stockdale became the sole book publisher and trader for many of these important historic figures. Through the published works of America's founders, the reader begins to recognize the challenges the London bookseller encountered in a time of turmoil and unrest in London and America. In addition to the problems and issues John Stockdale faced with the book-selling/publishing business, this chapter is also a detailed presentation of other obstructions and complexities he encountered in owning and operating a bookshop in London during the 1700s.

Another especially enlightening section of the monograph is chapter 20, in which the author highlights John Stockdale's final days as a book publisher and discusses key events and transitions during his career. John Stockdale developed a variety of special interests over the years, including American politics, geography, topography, and children's

books. Often he kept a private stock of books about these particular interests in his bookshop for addition to his personal collection.

Eric Stockdale does an excellent job of connecting John Stockdale to essential American political figures and significant inventors. For example, although John Stockdale was not known specifically as a "printer" per se, he was introduced to Friedrich Koenig (German inventor of the cylinder printing press), who in turn developed a partnership with Thomas Bensley (printer who printed the majority of Stockdale's books). The invention of the printing press and John Stockdale's ongoing association with Friedrich Koenig changed the process and outcome of the book publishing business for the remainder of history.

In summary, this monograph carries the reader over a period of time through relationships, events, and historical tran-

sitions that are reflected in the life of the London bookseller and publisher John Stockdale. This book includes a useful index, appendix, photographs, and prints. Most of the information presented was found in unpublished correspondence files, published papers, and writings of historically prominent Americans, and other historic documents. Eric Stockdale visited and conducted research at a variety of institutions, including the New York Historical Society, London Library, London Metropolitan Archives, South Carolina Historical Society, Massachusetts Historical Society, American Philosophical Society, and the University of Manchester Library. This book is highly recommended for history scholars, graduate students, librarians, and archivists interested in American and British history and politics, the American Revolution, and the book publishing business. —*Katie Nash, Elon University.*

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