

History As Told By The Internet

IF IT'S ON THE INTERNET,
IT MUST BE TRUE.

Abstract:

The internet has opened up the field of history to a larger amount of contributors. While inaccuracy and controversy have increased with the public forums created by digital platforms, obsolete historical events and facts have been able to reach a greater audience. The increased communication and information sharing tools have lead to historically categorized resources on social media websites. Trends within the historical content on the internet have developed as internet users reinterpret history through digital tools.

Goals:

- Build site with a clear voice and narrative to discuss examples of digital historical interpretations on the internet
- Analyze the message and validity of sources, as well as the implications of having the source widely syndicated
- Identify trends in examples to determine the overarching patterns in the effects of digital platforms on the historical message

Results:

- The continuous exchange of information in the digital age brings up historical content that would otherwise remain obscure and widely unknown.
- A wider diversity of topics gain attention through blogs, social media and major news outlets.
- A greater focus on historical topics surrounding popular culture and societal trends has arisen across all digital mediums including infographics, photos, videos and articles.
- Users are creating sources for mass communication with a stronger emphasis on visual media.
- Social media platforms are being used and developed for collecting and cataloging historical context.
- Within the social media history community there is an expectation of historical accuracy as well as creative interpretation to utilize digital tools

Approach:

Tumblr was chosen as the host for a site to feature links, photos, videos and articles on examples of digital interpretation of history. Each example was briefly explained to note its relevance and message.

Here is an example of an infographic from America's Test Kitchen. Websites are using strong visuals and unique history topics to create a new source to communicate with the large audience through social media.

