

Convergence: Beyond the Technical Paradigm

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This was a very lively and stimulating talk on the future of the internet and what we can expect to happen - in fact "the future has already happened, it is just unequally distributed". Many technologies have already been developed they are just not available in the common market place yet. It was quite an eye-opener - the cellphone is definitely here to stay and in many different formats with an endless variety of functions! It will become the mobile access to the Internet, and also become our mobile wallets. Can you imagine doing your finances, paying accounts etc via cellphone to cellphone - with no banks involved at all?

TV viewers will change from passive to active participants - the viewer can be producer and publisher at the same time. Advertising can be customised and will be via SMS which can be sent via email.

The world is going to change radically. Survival will lie in constant innovation. Radio and TV will be channeled through the internet. Through a system called Bluetooth which provides short range, wireless connectivity at high bandwidth to a variety of mobile devices, cars, fridges, and many other kinds of devices will contain Bluetooth chips which makes it possible for you to have remote control of your products. It sounds fantastic and very space-agey!

What really appealed to us as librarians was the phrase "Copyright and intellectual property will become the Vietnam of the Internet"