Information Resources

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eBook: The First Ten K R Narayanan Orations: The rapidly transforming Indian economy has thrown up a number of possibilities as well as several challenges with profound implications for India's vast population as well as globally. The K R Narayanan Oration Series at the Australia South Asia Research Centre in The Australian National University has been devoted to in-depth examination of this important issue by leading experts. The present volume collects the first ten essays in this series. Contributors include Dr Raja Chelliah, Dr U R Rao, Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati, Mr P. Chidambaram, Dr C. Rangarajan, Lord Meghnad Desai, Prof. Pranab Bardhan, Dr Vijay Kelkar, Dr M S Swaminathan, and Dr K. Kasturirangan. The essays cover a broad array of topics from various aspects of economic reforms, the political economy of India's development, the role of agriculture in India's food security and the role of space research in India's economic development. His Excellency Dr Narayanan and his successor as President of India, His Excellency Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, have provided introductory messages to the orations. Free Download

eBook: The Moral Economy of Mobile Phones: The moral economy of mobile phones implies a field of shifting relations among consumers, companies and state actors, all of whom have their own ideas about what is good, fair and just. These ideas inform the ways in which, for example, consumers acquire and use mobile phones; companies promote and sell voice, SMS and data subscriptions; and state actors regulate both everyday use of mobile phones and market activity around mobile phones. Ambivalence and disagreement about who owes what to whom is thus an integral feature of the moral economy of mobile phones. This volume identifies and evaluates the stakes at play in the moral economy of mobile phones. The six main chapters consider ethnographic cases from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu. The volume also includes a brief introduction with background information on the recent 'digital revolution' in these countries and two closing commentaries that reflect on the significance of the chapters for our understanding of global capitalism and the contemporary Pacific. Free Download

eBook: Opening Government: Transparency and Engagement in the Information Age: Transparency and citizen engagement remain essential to good government and sound public policy. Indeed, they may well be the key to restoring trust in government itself, currently at an all-time low in Australia. It is ironic, then, that this has occurred at a time when the technological potential for information dissemination and interaction has never been greater. This book, "Opening Government: Transparency and Engagement in the Information Age", explores new horizons and scenarios for better governance in the context of the new information age, focusing on the potentials and pitfalls for governments (and governance more broadly) operating in the new, information-rich environment. Its contributors, a range of international and Australian governance academics and practitioners, ask what are the challenges to our governing traditions and practices in the new information age, and where can better outcomes be expected using future technologies. They explore the fundamental ambiguities extant in opening up government, with governments intending to become far more transparent in providing information and in information sharing, but also more motivated to engage with other data sources, data systems and social technologies. Download

FontCode: Hiding information in plain text, unobtrusively and across file types: By imperceptibly changing, or perturbing, the shapes of fonts, Columbia researchers have invented a way to embed hidden information in ordinary text, without the existence of the secret message being perceived. The method, called FontCode, both creates font perturbations, mapping them to a bit string, and later decodes them to recover the message. To ensure robust decoding when font perturbations are obscured, researchers introduced redundancy using the 1700-year-old Chinese Remainder Theorem, and were able to demonstrate that a messages can be fully recovered even with a recognition failure rate of 25% (and theoretically even higher). FontCode works with all fonts and, unlike other text and document methods that hide embedded

information, works with all document types, even maintaining the hidden information when the document is printed on paper or converted to another file type. While having obvious advantages for spies, FontCode has perhaps more practical application for companies wanting to prevent document tampering or protect copyrights, and for retailers and artists wanting to embed QR codes and other metadata without altering the look or layout of a document. Full Post

eBook: Global Water: Issues and Insights: This book brings together some of the world's leading water researchers with an especially written collection of chapters on: water economics; transboundary water; water and development; water and energy; and water concepts. Download

Amazon, Apple, Google, and Microsoft Battle for K-12 Market, and Loyalties of Educators: Dominant Players Revamp School Options for Digital Devices, Operating Systems, and Most Recently, Procurement. If there's a common thread that unites the rival technology giants Apple, Google, and Microsoft in the education market, it's this: They're big. The three major tech companies—along with Amazon, a relatively new player on the scene—go head-to-head in vying for big chunks of school business, most notably in sales of devices and operating systems, and they try to forge their own paths in others. At the same time, all of them are best known for their work outside education, through their sales to consumers, businesses, or both. Full Post

Huge List of 65 Computer and IT Certifications: Becoming IT certified in a specific skill or product is a way to prove that you have the necessary knowledge to perform a job in a given field or a job that uses specific technologies. Earning certification is a good way for computer science graduates and entry-level IT professionals to improve their resume. Employers often look at a candidate's computer and technology certifications in order to assess whether or not the individual is a viable candidate for a position. From Official Microsoft certifications to cyber security and Linux exams, Webopedia compiled this alphabetical list of different certifications related to computer technologies with a brief explanation of each certification and links to help interested learners find additional information. Know them

From AT&T To Xerox: 73 Corporate Innovation Labs: Innovation is critical for established companies to stay relevant in the face of disruption. Here's our list of corporate innovation labs. Corporate innovation is critical for established companies looking to stay relevant in the face of disruption from up-and-coming start-ups. With industries being unbundled left and right (supermarkets, banking, cars — just to name a few) more companies are opening up in-house innovation labs every day. Sometimes corporate innovation goes wrong, and we've written about corporate innovation theater before. Now here's our list of innovation labs, both newly formed and well established, working to turn new ideas into new opportunities at long-lived companies. Know these innovation labs

Informatics for information professionals: Are you a librarian or other information professional (or soon-to-be) who's comfortable with numbers? If so, you might want to take a serious look at the growing career path of informatics. Although it's already become a key driver in the medical and healthcare industries, the use of informatics is now also providing decision support in law firms, libraries, corporations, government agencies, and pretty much any organization able to gather and make use of data. In fact, notes Brad Rogers, LibGig Director of Recruiting, "An increasing number of employers are looking for informatics and other data-analytics skills across all industry verticals as companies rely more on data for decision support." Read the full story

What is a data scientist? A key data analytics role and a lucrative career: Data scientists are responsible for discovering insights from massive amounts of structured and unstructured data to help shape or meet specific business needs and goals. The data scientist role is becoming increasingly important as businesses rely more heavily on data analytics to drive decision-making and lean on automation and machine learning as core components of their IT strategies. Becoming a data scientist varies depending on industry, but there are common skills, experience, education and training that will give you the leg up in starting your data science career. Read the full post

AICTE & NPTEL sign MOU to recognise NPTEL MOOCS as FDPs for faculty promotion under CAS: Copy of the agreement/MOU is at https://www.aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/MoU_NPTEL_AICTE.pdf
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