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## AlisaRhee8

I think it is interesting that the articles talked about the digital divide not as a binary, "got it or not" but as a spectrum of technological fluency. I volunteered at a computer center in Dorchester a couple of years ago, and I think my definition of digital divide was developed there. I always thought of the divide as, on one side, people that were financially comfortable in life to utilize technology to the extent that they wanted or needed to (technology as in, mobile phones, using fax machines, creating an MS Access database if need be) and on the other hand, individuals that did not have access to these technologies. The article by Warschauer was interesting to me, as I always defined digital divide as an issue of accessibility, but, as the case study in Ireland points out, accessibility does not equate to technological literacy, or the ability to utilize technology in a productive way. I see his point that fancy ICT does not promote "social inclusion," and this is a huge issue I see often times when new technologies for learning aren't combined with new pedagogies of learning. But I think the most serious aspect of digital divide is between the society that is technologically literate and those that aren't, as in people that live in rural areas in the developing world. I think, with technological fluency, comes a 'language' and way of thinking, and those with absolutely no access or experience with modern technology are left behind. Just a simple example, I did a UROP a couple of years ago, working on an e-bulletin for a multi-literate community in the Dominican Republic. The structure of the bulletin itself was a tree/folder structure, like Windows Explorer. When the program was completed, the researchers brought it over to this small community to see if our software would be useful. However, the users there had no clue about hierarchies of data and could not understand the folder structure. They didn't really get the e-bulletin because they could not understand how the data was being represented. I think the developed/wired world will start to speak and think in ways in which those that are not wired will increasingly not be able to understand. [Susanne: the experience you describe is very interesting because it points to the strengths of participatory development of technologies that fulfill real needs.]