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SI 410 ETHICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Week 4a: Boundaries of Trust

THEMES

- Setting up assignment 2.
- What is information integrity?
- Why might Wikipedia be such a good case study?
- What does censorship have to do with integrity?

WRITING THE WIKI WAY

1. **Assignment 2**
 2. Integrity
 3. Wikipedia
 4. Censorship
- Write an article
 - Edit an article with attribution
 - Edit an article anonymously
 - Discuss issues collaboratively

 - Get as creative as you can

INTEGRITY AND TRUST

1. Assignment 2
2. Integrity
3. Wikipedia
4. Censorship

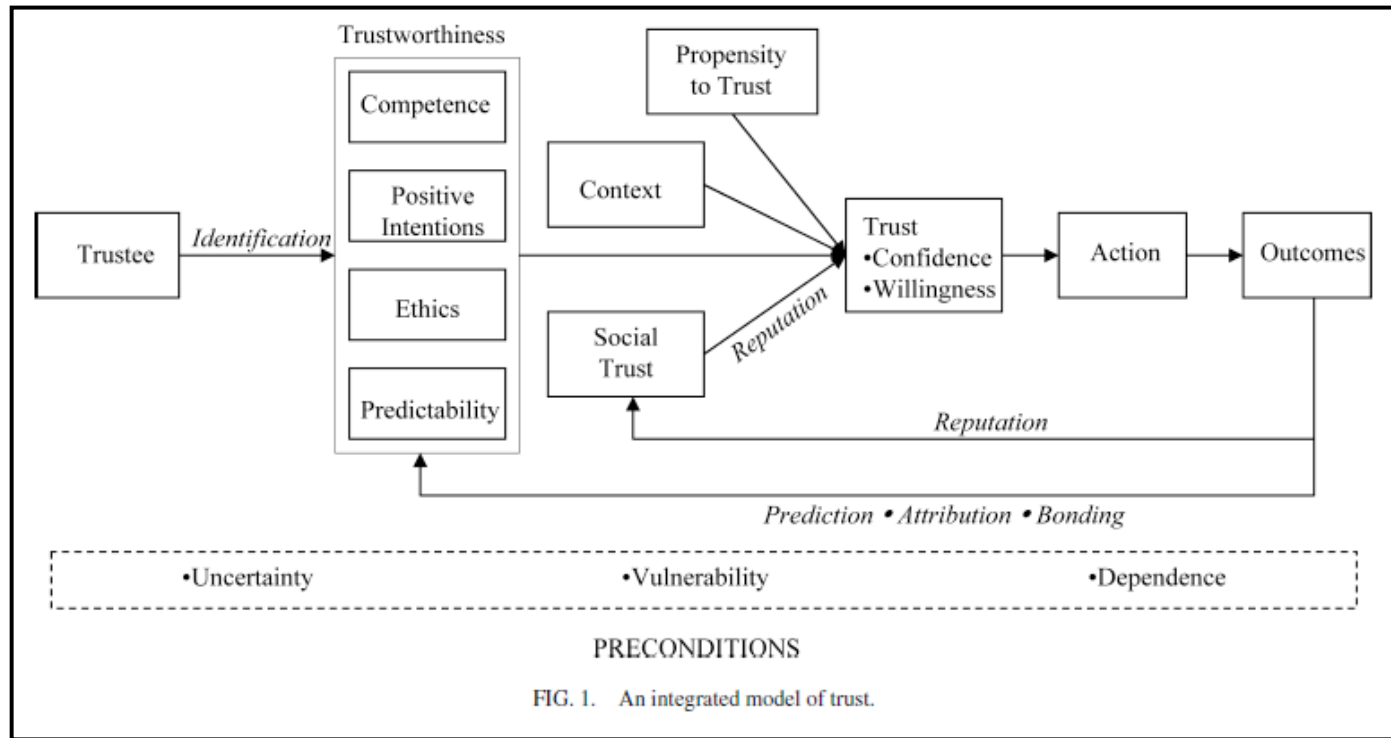


FIG. 1. An integrated model of trust.



Kelton, K., Fleischmann, K. R. and Wallace, W. A. (2008), Trust in digital information

INTEGRITY AND TRUST

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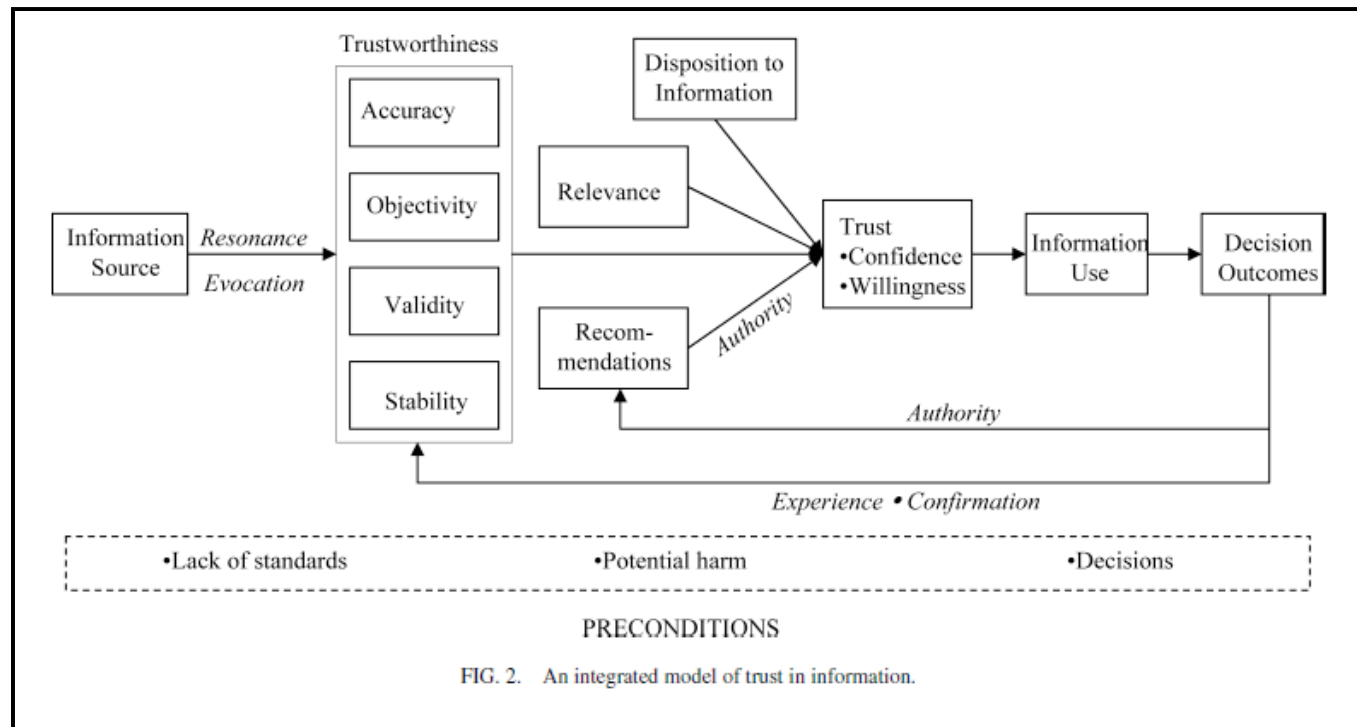


FIG. 2. An integrated model of trust in information.

WHAT IS A WIKI?

1. Assignment 2
2. Integrity
- 3. Wikipedia**
4. Censorship

- Software platform for cooperative work on texts and hypertexts.
- Initially developed for software documentation.
- Dynamic content, produced on demand.
 - Server script
 - Content in database, with templates
 - Formatted on fly
- System and content are open source
- Environment for interactive behavior
 - Reception, writing, structural, social

WIKI ROLES

1. Assignment 2
 2. Integrity
 3. **Wikipedia**
 4. Censorship
- What role will you assume?
 - Bees
 - Sock puppets
 - Judges
 - Moths
 - Vandals
 - Bureaucrats (to be continued)

1. Assignment 2
2. Integrity
3. Wikipedia
4. **Censorship**

- We have an interest in access to expressions based on our fundamental interests in communicating with others, both as speakers and as hearers.
- Moral disapproval of content versus moral disapproval of what someone might do with it.
- Inherently harmful v. instrumentally harmful.
 - Markets, atmosphere, influence, implementation

CENSORSHIP

1. Assignment 2
2. Integrity
3. Wikipedia
4. **Censorship**

- ❑ **To censor is:** “restrict or limit access to an expression, portion of an expression, or category of expression, which has been made public by its author, based on the belief that it will be a bad thing for people to access the content of that expression.”
 - Not always wrong
 - Role of censor
 - Role of author’s intent
- ❑ **Cases:**
 - Inherently harmful content: **EXAMPLES?**
 - Instrumentally harmful access: **EXAMPLES?**



ARGUMENTS AGAINST CENSORSHIP

- Censoring expressions to avoid negative consequences
 - Denying that there are any negative consequences
 - Access always should trump restrictions
 - (denial of autonomy)
 - (a rationalist argument)
 - (strong focus on the individual)
 - Restriction more likely to have bad consequences than access.
 - Slippery slope of documenting the assertion

Additional Source Information

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Slide 6, Image 1: Kelton, K., Fleischmann, K. R. and Wallace, W. A. (2008), Trust in digital information. Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 59: 363%u2013374. doi: 10.1002/asi.20722, PD-INEL

Slide 7, Image 1: Kelton, K., Fleischmann, K. R. and Wallace, W. A. (2008), Trust in digital information. Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology, 59: 363%u2013374. doi: 10.1002/asi.20722, PD-INEL



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