why history

an information age?
economy?
society?
what history?

a fundamental particle
"On an average weekday, the New York Times contains more information than any contemporary of Shakespeare's would have acquired in a lifetime"

Shakespeare, c 1600, (2)
"this is one Lucio's information against me"

"But reason with the fellow
Before you punish him, where he heard this,
Lest you shall chance to whip your information
And beat the messenger who bids beware."

King James Bible, 1611, (0)
Daniel Defoe, c. 1700:

"A Justice of the Peace is ... a Passive Magistrate, and does not act but by information"

"the duty of Communicating our Opinions to Others with a Design of Information"

If I cannot inform others by my Argument, I shall be inform'd my self by the Answers; so that some Good shall come of it, let it go which way it will.

"very useful ... to the reader's information"

["I enclose for your information ..." 1859]
organization

to organize
the world's
information
"Advances in computing and communications mean that we can cost-effectively store every book, sound recording, movie, software package, and public web page ever created, and provide access to these collections via the Internet to students and adults all over the world. By working with existing institutions and funding sources, and creating new ones, we can provide universal access to all human knowledge within the current worldwide library budget."

-- Brewster Kahle
"An America where every child can stretch a hand across a keyboard and reach every book ever written, every painting ever painted, every symphony ever composed."
-- Bill Clinton, 1996

"A young generation of entrepreneurs asked, what if we could take all the information in a library and put it on a little chip the size of a fingernail? We did and that too changed the world forever."
-- John Kerry, 2004
"A library arranged for the public must be universal, and it cannot be so if it does not contain all the principal authors ..."

--Gabriel Naudé, *Advis pour dresser une bibliotheque*, 1628

"These Libraries in a few years, will be full and compleat, being furnished, not only with all the valuable and usefull Old Books in any Art of Science, but also with all the valuable New Books, so soon as every they are heard of or seen in the World"

-- James Kirkwood, *Overture for founding and maintaining of bibliotecks*, 1699
"here in this casual act by an unknown hand there is announced a revolution which was destined to change the nature of human culture ..."

-- Jack Goody

Humanity "did not pass through phases as a train passes through stations: being alive, it has the privilege of always moving yet never leaving anything behind."

-- C.S. Lewis
"[W]hat if we could take all the information in a library and put it on a little chip the size of a fingernail? We did and that too changed the world forever."

YouTube may be changing the political process in more profound ways, for good ...

In statements to the press, the company has been quick to take credit for radically altering the political ecosystem

Some political analysts say that YouTube could force candidates to stop being so artificial, ...

others see a future where politicians are more vapid and risk averse than ever.
the road ahead

class outline &
reading list