

Baumgartner, Poli 718, Agenda-Setting, Spring 2014

Questions for Week 9.

Readings: *Politics of Information*.

1. Is it true that more search leads to more discovery? Can you search for social problems and not find?
2. Evaluate the ideas in chapter 2 about organizing for entropy v. organizing for expertise. Is it fair to say that greater diversity of sources, participants, and information is a positive, in the domain of “complex” search?
3. Chapter 3 presents lots of qualitative / historical / literature about public administration and organizational design. Is redundancy good as an organizational model?
4. Was Ronald Reagan really opposed to information? (see Chapter 4)
5. Did government really become more complex from 1947 to 1978, and did this really stop? (Chapter 5-7)
6. In chapter 8 we go through some possible explanations of the trends we observe, and discount most of them. Did we miss some important ones?
7. Are liberals hard-wired to accept complexity? Do conservatives simply want “order” and “control”? Is our book, focused on openness to information, really about ideology?