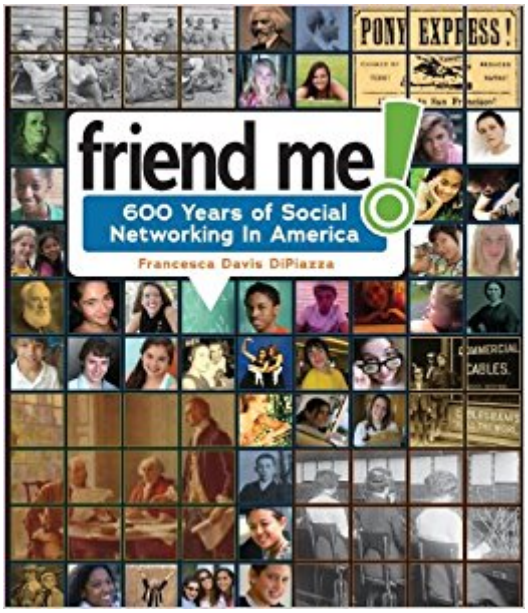
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Friend Me!: Six Hundred Years Of Social Networking In America (Single Titles)



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Synopsis

Anyone who texts recognizes LOL, 2G2BT, and PRW as shorthand for laughing out loud, too good to be true, and parents are watching. But did you know that in the 1800s--when your great-great-great-grandparents were alive telegraph operators used similar abbreviations in telegrams? For example, GM, SFD, and GA meant good morning, stop for dinner, and go ahead. At the time, telegrams were a new and superfast way for people to network with others. Social networking isn't a new idea. People have been connecting in different versions of circles and lists and groups for centuries. The broad range of social media includes wampum belts, printed broadsides (early newspapers), ring shouts (secret slave gatherings with singing and dancing), calling cards, telegrams, and telephones. The invention of the Internet and e-mail, text messaging, and social utilities such as Facebook and Google+--is just the latest way in which humans network for fun, work, romance, spiritual bonding, and many other reasons. Friend Me! takes readers through the amazing history of social networking in the United States, from early Native American councils to California's Allen Telescope Array (ATA), where researchers are hoping to interact with extraterrestrial beings. Learn how Americans have been connecting in imaginative ways throughout history, and you'll see social networking in a whole new light.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The catchy title makes this appear to be about the recent phenomena of electronic social networks. However, the subtitle is a clue that the scope includes so much more. The whole scope of the

American history of socializing is covered, beginning with the Iroquois and their method of weaving beads into wampum belts. Early religious groups, colonial coffeehouses, broadsides, secret gatherings of slaves, circuit riders, telegraphs, mail orders, and groups such as the YMCA and NAACP are profiled as examples of social networking. TodayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s online communities (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, e-mail, etc.) are touched upon with the supposition that face-to-face socializing is still important. The solid information will make this useful for reports, while the pleasing design set off by touches of blue, as well as the sufficient black-and-white archival photos placed throughout, make this plenty appealing for browsers. Grades 5-8. --Randall Enos

Francesca Davis DiPiazza grew up loving the smell of books, but as soon as she saw a computer, she thought, 'Terrific! More ways to share more words with more people!' A blogger since 2002, she still uses a 1970s rotary-dial phone. One of her books for Twenty-First Century Books, Zimbabwe in Pictures (Visual Geography Series), won the Society of School Librarians International Book Award.

This book does a great job of tying the idea of community to social networking, showing how society has always sought ways to make connections. It effectively show that social networking on the Internet is just a new format for an old idea. The book discusses civilization's attempts to connect with one another over backyard fences and relates it across generations to other means of communication such as mail, telephone, television and computer.I found the attempt to explain certain terms a little awkward. The use of parentheses to include a definition immediately after a word broke the flow of the text for me. I also thought the book fell a little flat at the end. It briefly discussed the possibility of humanity connecting with life beyond earth. I would have liked to see a more enlightening discussion of this. But those are minor points compared with the overall value of this publication. As a high school librarian, I believe that this will be a good resource to introduce my students to the idea that the Internet is tied to old values, technologies, and dreams of connecting with others.

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