

The Holocaust denial: from the Academy to the Internet

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This study examines the possible effect on the Internet medium of the Holocaust denial movement grown to an impressive extreme creation of collective dedication to minimize the troublesome truth of the Holocaust, up to the negation of its existence and a pseudo-scientific justification for this historians-endorsed reality denial.

The Internet medium blessed in number of virtues suffers inherent weaknesses exploited by less well-intentioned groups. The Holocaust denial movement, born in France, is supposedly the prolongation of politico-cultural streams prevalent for somewhat six decades before Second World War and during Vichy's government, seemingly continuing nowadays, seven decades after the war, in different ways. Never accepted by mainstream historians as revisionism, the valid practice of Science, the Holocaust denial welcome the Internet advent expected to transform the movement in an international publishing tool converting denial ideas worldwide available, despite legislation in most of cases ineffective.

Based on Sneiderman's categorization (1998), Holocaust-oriented queries were submitted to Google to verify the Holocaust denial presence and assess its impact on the medium. Sample included the 75 first English answers of 3 queries. Content analysis, quantitative and qualitative, was applied coding the narratives into categories developed, detailed and illustrated in a dedicated coding book. This research expands and generalizes Holocaust denial-related web sites studies. Its contribution consists in focusing upon Holocaust denial trends. "*Assault on truth and memory*" for historians community, this allegedly cultural affront discloses existential threats to Israel and the Jewish people, perceived contributing largely to delegitimize Israel and warmly embraced by Arab countries.