[**ICT’s Role in Civil Society**](http://www.onlineschools.org/state-of-the-internet/soti.html)

**Key Terms*:* Global civil society** all movements, associations or individual citizens, independent from the state, whose aim is to transform policies, standards or social structures through comunal efforts at a national or international level.

**Digital Divide** refers to the gap between people with effective Access to digital and information technology and those with very limited Access to it, or none at all.

**Task**: Create a table of the contrasting roles of ICT in two countries; I would suggest using the following,

[USA](http://senseable.mit.edu/csa/index.html), [UK](http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/60-seconds/what-is-the-digital-divide/), [Iceland](http://www1.american.edu/carmel/cn9463a/InternetDiffusion.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ib-geography-global-interactions-diigo+%28IB+Geography+2009+Global+Interactions+|+Diigo+-+Groups%29), India, [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_divide_in_Mainland_China) or [México](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2010/sep/14/mdg8-mexico-it).

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|  | **USA** | **China** |
| **Internet Penetration Levels** | Penetration (% population) 76.3  Internet Users 234,372,000 | Internet Users 132 000 000  Total Population 1 317 431 000  Internet Penetration 9% |
| **Digital Divide** | 143 million internet users  54 percent of the population  2 million new internet users per month | 15.9 million Computers with average availability below 80 people.  10 percent of the population occupies more than 35 percent of its national subscribers. |
| **Political Participation** | 43 percent of the social netweork users follow politicians during the 2008 election. |  |
| **Social Networking** | 66 % of the internet users belong to a social network.  Social networks are expected to saturate by 2013. | 207 million social network users.  Expected to double by 2014.  More than 80% of twitter users in China follow music bands. |
| **ICT and Finance** | The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced in May 2008 that U.S. retail e-commerce sales for 2006 reached $ 107 billion, up from $ 87 billion in 2005 - an increase of 22 percent. From 2001 to 2006, retail e-sales increased at an average annual growth rate of of 25.4 | Chinese exports of ICT goods increased by 46 per cent year-on-year to $180 billion US in 2004 |
| **ICT & Sedentary Lifestyles** | A teenager obsessed by the World of Warcraft online game has become the first person to attend a US internet addiction retreat. | In August, a top Chinese legislator said that "about 10 percent of China's Web users under the age of 18, or four million people, were addicted to the Internet" |
| **Responses to Natural Disasters** | USA is now using DesInventar. A methodical way to gather and store information about characteristics and effects of different types of disasters, particularly the ones not visible from global or national scales. This allows for the observation and analysis of accumulated data regarding these ‘invisible’ disasters at a global or national scale | China created a free and open source software (FOSS)-based system developed by Lanka Software Foundation. It is a suite of web-based applications that provides solutions to the problems arising  in a post-disaster situation |