1. The First Amendment in the 21st Century [Gyllenhaal article attached to this exam]

In “Will the First Amendment survive the information age?” Anders Gyllenhaal presents five questions surrounding the Internet, free speech, and the first amendment. Your task is to create a white paper that discusses the first amendment of the US Constitution in light of information policy, and then addresses the five questions which Gyllenhaal outlines in his essay, paying particular attention to information policy, management, organization, computing, and society.

At first blush, this article appears to be another case of rapidly emerging technologies pushing at or eroding slow-moving and long-established policies in our democracy—the emergence of the Internet is challenging the meaning of (and perhaps even survival of?) the First Amendment. However, well-trained information professionals should be able to diagnose and address these issues using theories and frameworks from information management, information organization, as well as the many roles of information and computing in contemporary society. Hence, a strong essay will draw supporting points from all five proseminars and their literatures, and will present a point of view (see Gyllenhaal’s question 5).

2. SnapChat and the Camera Industry [Malik article attached to this exam]

In a recent New Yorker article discussing the forthcoming public offering of Snap, Inc., sponsors of the social networking application SnapChat, author Om Malik refers to Snap’s self-description as a “camera company.” He quotes the company’s own text explaining this: “In the way that the flashing cursor became the starting point for most products on desktop computers, we believe that the camera screen will be the starting point for most products on smartphones,” it writes. For further detail and explanation, take a look at the article: http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/why-is-snap-calling-itself-a-camera-company?mbid=nl_170214_Daily&CNDID=48813669&spMailingID=10432913&spUserID=MTgwOTMzMDc2MDcwS0&spJobID=1101168427&spReportId=MTEwMTE2ODQyNwS2.

Write an essay that reflects on the research challenges and opportunities for Informatics scholars of a world in which the camera becomes the essential “starting point” for doing things on smartphones, and perhaps other devices as well. What kinds of capabilities/affordances might become feasible for users and product developers on the basis of this starting point, which appears to be cameras that are getting “better and better”? What kinds of challenges, disadvantages, and unintended consequences might be similarly created? As a researcher in academia or with industry, what would you consider to be the most important areas of inquiry to be conducted exploring this new technological turn from the policy, management, technology, organization, computing, and society perspectives?

Feel free to be broadly speculative. However, since we don’t have a Snap software developer to describe the kinds of products currently under development, be sure to explain any assumptions or visualizations of your own that you bring to bear on your imagination of the technology, so that the reader can fully grasp the phenomenon that you are envisioning.

3. Discovery and dissemination or retrieval of information within the intelligence community
[Intelligence Community Directive 501 attached to this exam]

The Intelligence Community (IC) Directive 501 “establishes policies for: (1) discovery; and (2) dissemination or retrieval of intelligence and intelligence-related information collected or analysis produced by the Intelligence Community.” The main objectives of the Directive are to promote a culture of sharing and collaboration and to improve analysis to inform decision making, improving the capacity to warn and disrupt threats to the United States. The Intelligence Community Information Sharing Executive (IC ISE) has main responsibilities in the implementation of the Directive.

Develop a white paper with concrete recommendations to the IC ISE on the role that taxonomies, categories, ontologies and other structures for knowledge organization play in organizing and structuring intelligence-related information relevant for the directive. Discuss their relevance to institutional repositories of IC elements and other federal agencies, and make sure that you include in your discussion the organization, management, technology, computational and policy implications of your recommendations.