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COMMUNICATION IN A TEXT-ONLY WORLD

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As electronic communication expands, so too do the mis-communication problems that it often creates. Communication on the Internet and in other electronic venues has the unique characteristic of being text-only. This paper explores the types of mis-communications that occur in text-only situations and the social ramifications of such impediments on communication exchange. The absence of social cues, norms, and patterns in electronic communication presents interpretational problems. The nature of these communicative problems reveals how real-world power relationships are conveyed in electronic communities.