Markham Annette N., “Ethnography in the Digital Internet Era From fields to flows, descriptions to interventions” in Denzin Norman K and Lincoln Yvonna S., *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research*, 5th edition, SAGE, 2018.

Internet: Although ‘The Internet’ classically described the electronic network that connects computers worldwide, the internet in lowercase is a shortcut for various capacities, infrastructures, or cultural formations facilitated by digital communication networks. It describes the outcomes of interactions with digital media software, platforms, or devices. Through its ambiguity, the internet remains a persistent umbrella term, covering many different aspects of socio-technical relations in the era of global high-speed networks. It also avoids persistent false binaries that alternative terms might carry, such as online (offline), virtual (real, actual), or digital (analog).

The ‘internet’ accurately focuses on the means by which digital technologies have become a central feature of 21st Century social life. It describes the actual backbone of transmission, which facilitates the coordination of computers and information processing devices and the growth and complexity of networks. The early internet provided new possibilities for community. The contemporary internet is the foundation for more diverse and naturalized forms of mediatization, transmediation, and remediation than we would have seen prior to the mid-1990s, when the World Wide Web made the Internet more publicly available and commercialized. This backbone supports platforms that in less than a decade have converged almost all forms of media production, distribution, and use. Without the internet, digital forms would not have such spread and impact. Whether or not the term “internet” remains a common and central term in the future, it currently suffices for authors and publishers in the broad area of work that studies the intersections of internet-based technologies and social life.