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Millions of censored web pages discovered in massive study

MILLIONS of web pages blocked by four nations have been uncovered. The list has roughly 10 times as many sites as previously documented and gives insights into the kinds of online content China, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey most often restrict.

In China, media sites were the most commonly blocked. In Indonesia, it was personal ads and shopping sites. The biggest category blocked in Iran was blogs and personal pages. Turkey censors many sites linked with gambling, which it tightly regulates, but also, unexpectedly, a large number of dating sites.

In total, researchers at the University of Oxford found nearly 6 million censored web pages (arxiv.org/abs/1804.03056).

This article appeared in print under the headline “Biggest ever list of banned web pages”

Want more? Read the extended version of this article.

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