THE FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

A SMARTER SEARCH ENGINE

Encouraging curiosity, creativity, and criticality about knowledge

How can a smarter search engine help us understand how different disciplines work?

What makes a question a 'good question' according to different academic disciplines?

Canterbury
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This project brings together themes prevalent across all the projects and involves the collaboration of different teams and disciplines to create a prototype of a 'smarter search engine'.

This project is motivated by questions regarding the effect that access to a seemingly infinite amount of information via internet and search engines has on the ways that students, educators and researchers think about and work with knowledge across a range of disciplines. Ultimately it aims to equip users with insights and search tools that help them to make the most of the opportunities to search online.

In education settings, teachers engage students' curiosity with questions to begin a learning journey. But a search engine produces answers to questions in a fraction of a second with little or no effort by the student. Further there is a basis to say that the solutions that are modelled by popular search engines are typically fragments of knowledge, preselected for popularity rather than (for example) accuracy and/or their potential to inspire. The project will develop and test a search engine designed to encourage curiosity, creativity and criticality about knowledge.

The Smarter Search Engine project will work to co-create new practices in our educational and scholarly institutions aimed at transforming barriers that block epistemic insight and flourishing into opportunities and boundaries that are understood and skillfully negotiated. These barriers include the fragmentation of knowledge and disciplinary silos.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The primary output of this project will be the search engine itself which will form a research and teaching tool for the wider dissemination of Epistemic Insight principles to schools and higher education.