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The New Information Source for Education. Refining Information from the Internet

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Abstract

Digital resources, known as Big Data, exceed the conventional critical size of registered data. The results of analysis of the data provide a new source of information. This can be seen as a contractual new phase in the development of IT applications (tools and data communication networks). One of the important features of this stage is the creation of new sources for education.

It is assumed that the process of obtaining new data hidden in Big Data - mainly from the Web - is called refining the Web. Refining provides a way of looking from the environment of pure information on the Web, into the environment of hidden information in large information resources on the Web.

Crossing the threshold of the critical size of collected information (Big Data) offers an opportunity to investigate, with an assumed level of significance, a description of the picture of the past and current status of real information, and even predict the future. It creates a space of rich sources of information for education. Refining indicates the new, important, and the old, possible to omit, topics to teach young people.

For refining the social web, a lot of tools can be used, e.g. Attentio, Radian6, Sysomos, NetBase, Collective Intellect, Alterian, and Google Alerts. For example, in relation to the past and present, the corpus of millions of digitized books enables us to investigate cultural trends quantitatively, using collective memory, to recognize the adoption of technology, and to find out what was and what is the most important in subjects of education, e.g. a growing interest in health and language education and at the same time a lowering interest in nature and mathematics education.

Another – tested positively – example of refining is using the Internet to search for emerging threats and challenges using a measure of public sentiments. The size of sentiments (the results of sentimental analysis) can be used in extensive detail to find the current problems of public education.

Refining has created a new space of rich sources of information and opened new ways of research within the humanities. It can pick up big changes in the world of information. This kind of data management and analysis is critical to achieving important goals of education. Thanks to refining, teachers can adopt a new way of using online information.

Biography



Włodzimierz Gogołek professor of University of Warsaw is the head of Online Journalism Specialization at The Institute of Journalism. His current activities: The New Media – IT in Education and in the Media and Media in IT and education, Internet & WWW, online information resources. His last books: Information Technology of the Media (2006), Introduction to Computer Science for Humanists (2007, 2012); Nets' communication, Conditions, Categories and Paradoxes (2010).

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