

FAITH AND SCIENCE

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FORUM

At The University of Hong Kong



Higher Education in a Machine Age - Session 3.1

Destroying Information Well

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Destroying information

“All societies have institutions and techniques that function... to maintain a balance between the old and the new, between novelty and tradition between meaning and conceptual disorder, and they do so by ‘destroying’ unwanted information.”

p. 72-73

Destroying information

Without such mechanisms “information loses its use and therefore becomes a source of confusion rather than coherence.” p.73



2014



2005



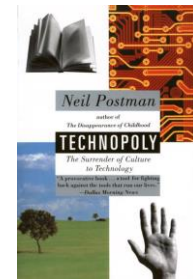
2004



1998



1994



1993

Destroying information

Without such mechanisms “information loses its use and therefore becomes a source of confusion rather than coherence.

“Social Institutions sometimes do their work simply by denying people access to information, but principally by directing how much weight and, therefore, value one must give to information.” p. 73

Destroying information

We **need** ways to restrict the flow of information.

- There are **humane** ways to do it.
- There are **technological** ways to do it.

Humane ways to restrict information

- **Family,**
- **Church,**
- **Educational institutions,**
- **Governmental institutions.**

Technological ways to restrict information

“The culture seeks its authorisation in technology, finds its satisfaction in technology, and takes its orders from technology.” p. 71

~~- Family~~

~~- Church,~~

~~- Educational institutions,~~

~~- Governmental institutions.~~

Technological ways to restrict information

“The god they serve does not speak of **righteousness or goodness or mercy or grace.**

Their god speaks of **efficiency, precision, objectivity.”** p. 90

The logic of a machine culture

Effectiveness

Greater Effectiveness

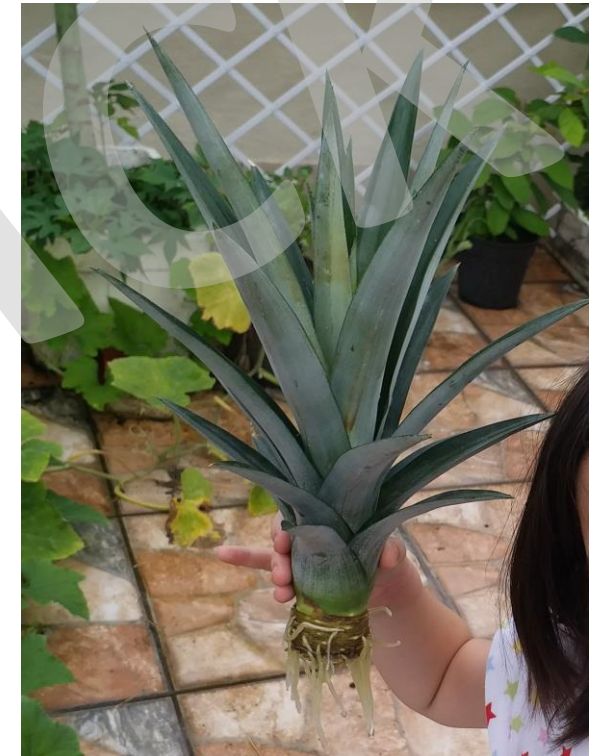
Comparison

Metrics

Standardisation

Optimisation

Acceleration



Technological ways to restrict information

“The test transforms an abstract and multifaceted meaning into a technical and exact term that leaves out everything of importance.” p. 89

Google

Standard forms

Rankings

***h* indices**

What kinds of methods should we be looking for?

Slow

Difficult

Inefficient

Unreliable