



Scholarship Beyond Books and Journals

How digital is changing how
'human thought'¹ is published

Toby Green

Co-Founder, Coherent Digital

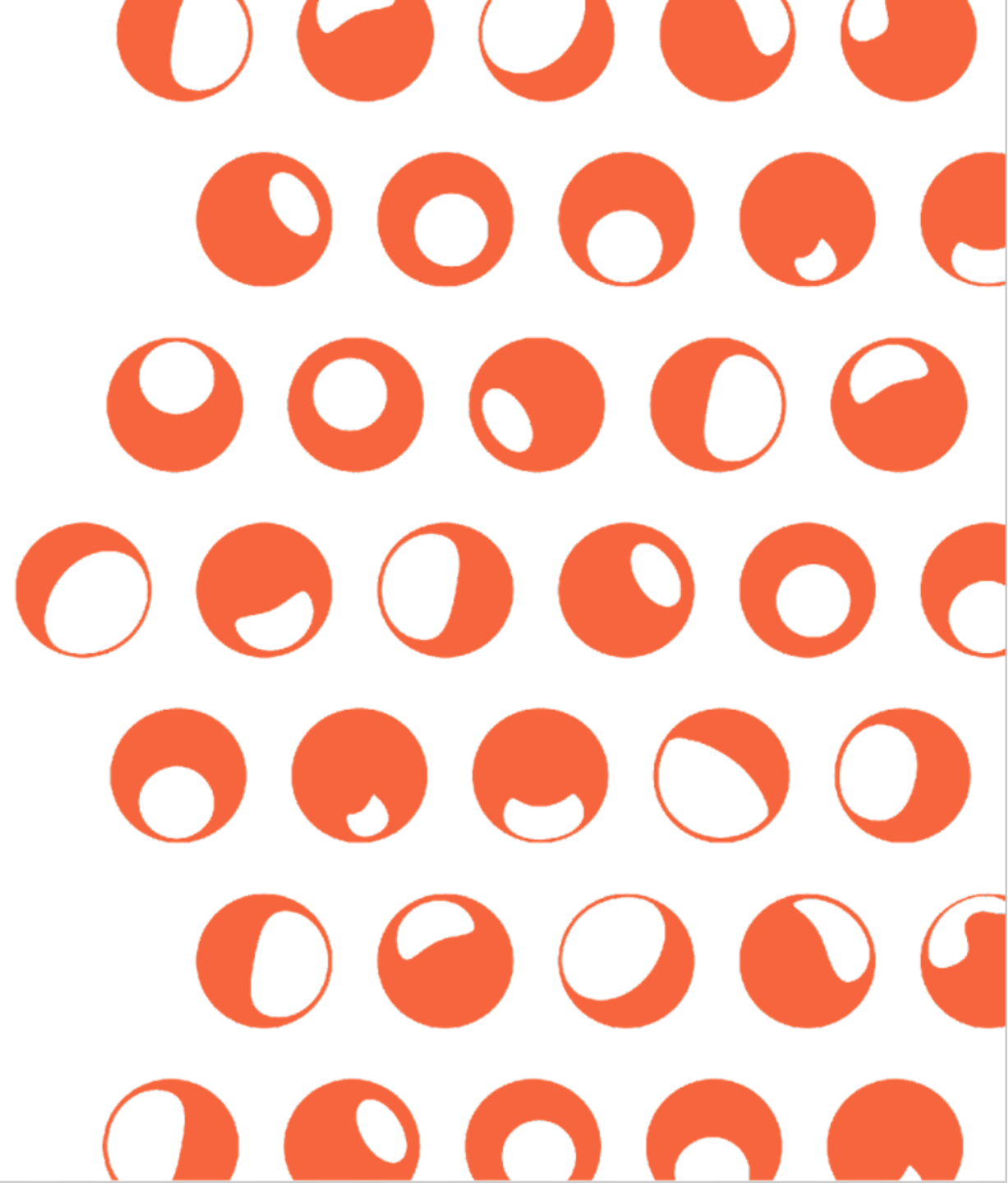
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¹ Hat tip: Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director General
National Library of Greece





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The scholarly record has always comprised *more* than books & journals. Curiously, digital makes it harder for the *more* to join today's record & much is now missing. Librarians and scholars are worried. A long  (you might want to make   first).

[#Fiesole2022](#)



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1665. The first scholarly journal - a twelve page quarto pamphlet -
is published. An industry is born 🍼 .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_des_s%C3%A7avans

LE
JOURNAL
DES
SÇAVANS

De Louy P. Janvier M. D. C. L. X V.

Par le Sieur DE HEDOVILLE.



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1665-1996. The publisher-library 'complex' evolves a sophisticated system to publish, curate, collect & disseminate 'human thought'. Serving both readers and authors, it has libraries at its centre.





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▶▶ to the end of the print era. A lot of scholarly 📖 has been published and carefully archived. (Lest we forget, standing on the shoulders of giants is only possible thanks to the work of librarians. 🙌🙌🙌)





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Librarians know that giants need a varied diet - so alongside formally published books and journals librarians also collect [#primarysources](#) and [#greylit](#), if they can find it. ("if" doing a lot of work here).



Primary Sources

Diaries
Photographs
Letters
Newspapers

Grey Literature

Pamphlets
White Papers
Reports
Financial statements



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Why "if"?

Lacking a publisher (yes, publishers add value), [#greylit](#) and [#primarysources](#) are challenging for librarians to find, catalogue and index - but thanks to their efforts, this content took its place in the scholarly record.

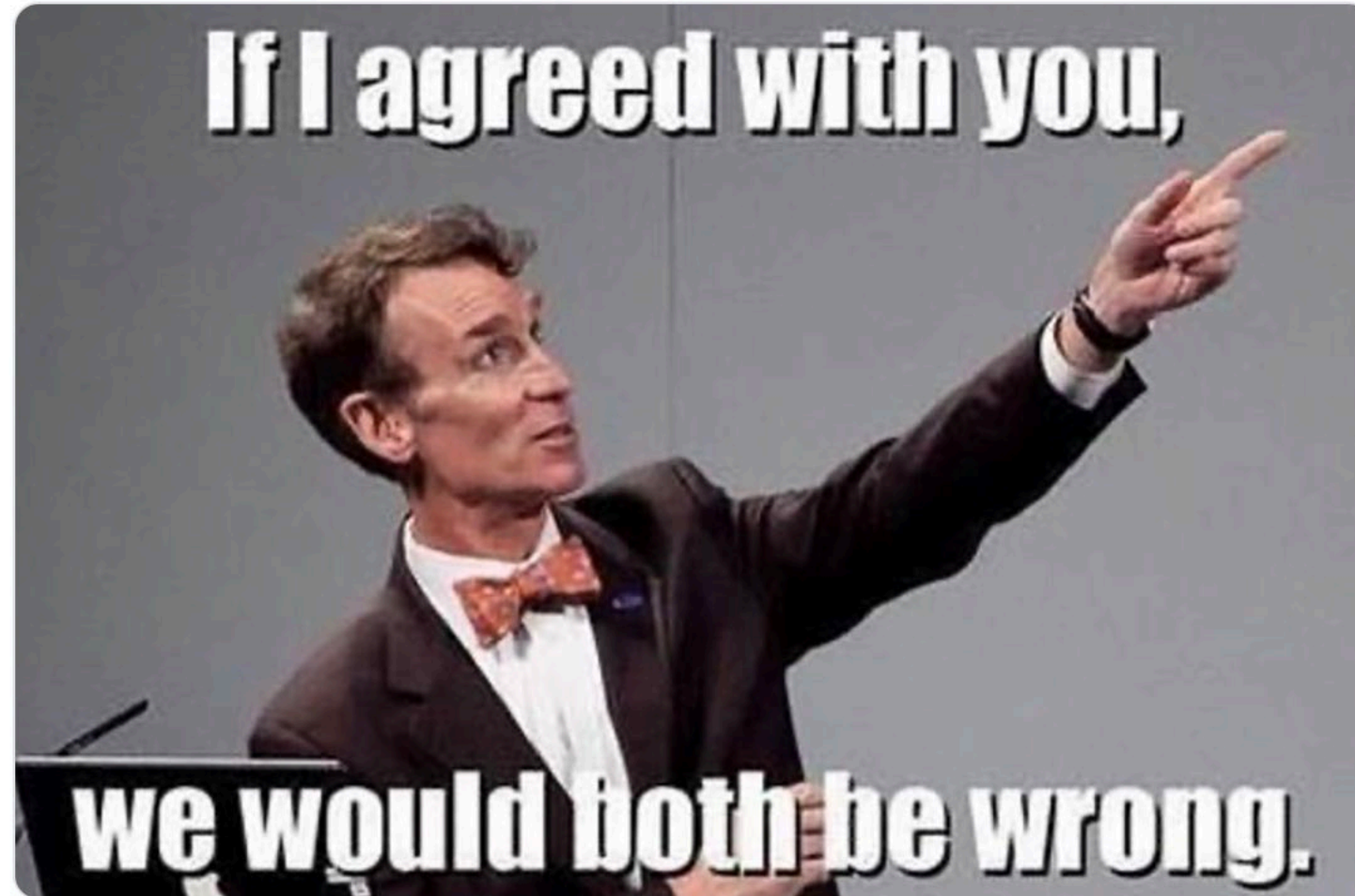




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So, the scholarly record's in good shape to enter the digital age?

Right?





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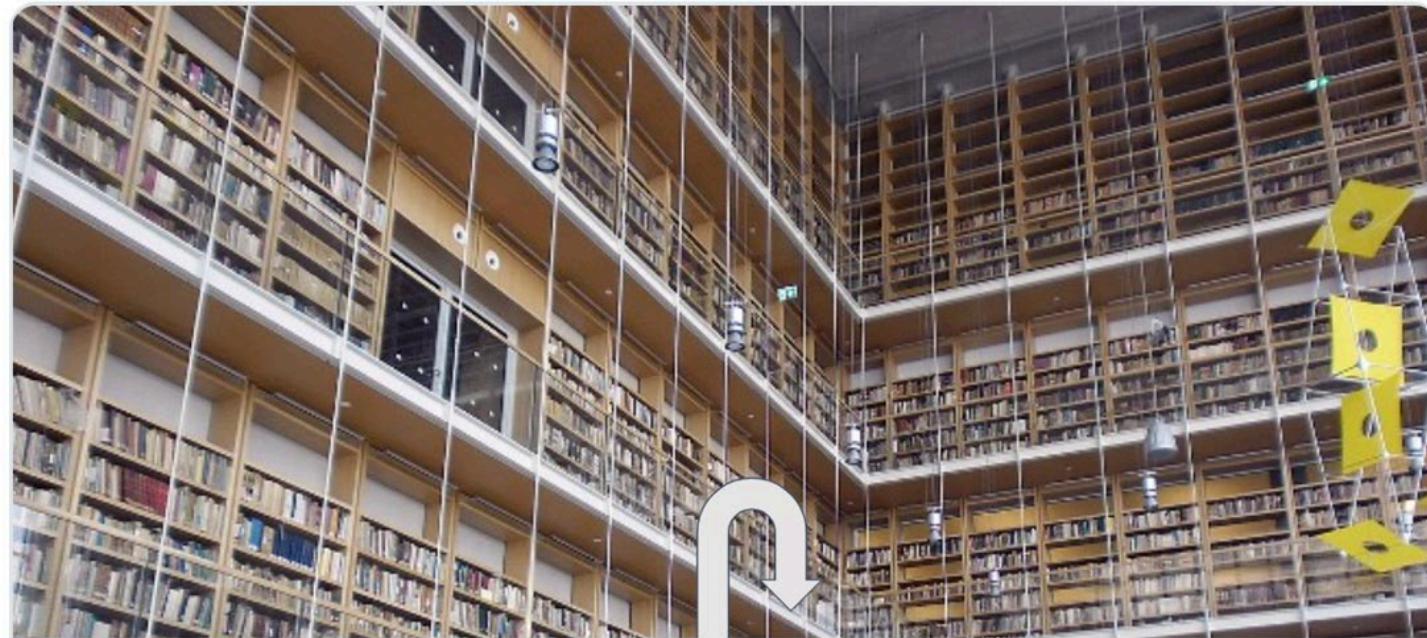
1996-2004. Digital era 1.0. Publishers and librarians move fast to digitise the scholcomm loop, building digital systems (with colourful logos!) at the heart of which is standardised metadata that leads to the PDFs (and other digital stuff too).





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But [#greylit](#) is left behind. Sure, their producers learn how to produce PDFs, but they don't know how to create metadata (and they don't much care either). So this content becomes harder to find & catalogue. It's excluded from today's scholarly record 🤯.



Primary Sources

- Diaries
- Photographs
- Letters
- Newspapers
- Speeches



Grey Literature

- Pamphlets
- White Papers
- Reports
- Financial statements



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Digital has effectively put a bouncer on the door - No metadata?
No entry!





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Along comes 2004 . . . and a surprise . . .

No, not THIS surprise (but 🙌 Greece, for 🏆🏆 Euro 2004 🙌🍷)

. . . no, I was thinking about . . .





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... Web 2.0.





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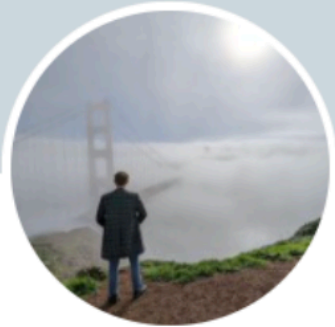
Web 2.0 unleashed a wave of 'user-generated' content - chaotic, creative, and contumacious (aka stubbornly or wilfully disobedient to authority). But what's that got to do with scholcomm and the scholarly record? Surely academics won't publish on social media?





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Allow me to introduce Kamil Galeev [@kamilkazani](#) - a [Galina Starovoitova](#) Fellow at the Wilson Center and of St Andrews and Peking Universities. He has over 300k followers. He writes cracking s about Ukraine-Russia.



Following

Kamil Galeev

[@kamilkazani](#)

Galina Starovoitova Fellow [@TheWilsonCenter](#). MLitt in Early Modern History, St Andrews. MA in China Studies, Peking University

 Washington DC  kamilkazani.substack.com  Joined April 2013


571 Following **303.3K** Followers



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Take this one. It's a 103-tweet 🧵 and takes ~40 minutes to read. It's packed with links, references and citations - just like a working paper or preprint. Except he chose to publish his 'paper' as a tweet thread.

7,824 views

 **Kamil Galeev**
[Follow @kamilkazani](#) 303K followers

Apr 1 • 103 tweets • 41 min read

[Bookmark](#) [Save as PDF](#) [+ My Authors](#)

Imperial Reboot

In a previous thread I outlined three scenarios for the Russian future:

1. North Korea
2. Imperial Reboot
3. National Divorce



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Or how about Professor Chris Grey @chrisgreybrexit who has been writing a weekly blog about #Brexit since 2016. Currently at Royal Holloway, Professor Grey used to be at Warwick and Cambridge Universities and earned his PhD at Manchester.



Following

Chris Grey 🇺🇰

@chrisgreybrexit

Emeritus Prof of Organization Studies @RoyalHolloway, ex-Prof @Cambridge_Uni & @Warwickuni. FAcSS. Tweet/ Blog quality news/ analysis of Brexit (& related)

📍 United Kingdom 🔗 chrisgreybrexitblog.blogspot.com

📅 Joined February 2017

1,033 Following **65.9K** Followers



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Chris Grey's Brexit & Beyond blog runs to over 350 weekly posts (some are very long) and they've racked up nearly 7 million views. Prediction: it will be one of the most important primary sources for studying the history of Brexit. And it's currently on the Blogspot platform 🤖.

Brexit & Beyond

"Best guy to follow on Brexit for intelligent analysis" Annette Dittert, ARD German TV. "By far one of the best analysts of Brexit" Sarah Carey, The Times. "Consistently outstanding analysis of Brexit" Jonathan Dimbleby. "The best writer on Brexit" Chris Lockwood, Europe Editor, The Economist. "A must-read for anyone following Brexit" David Allen Green, FT. "The doyen of Brexit commentators" Chris Johns, Irish Times.

Sunday, 4 September 2016

Where we are now

This new blog will comment on the aftermath of the UK Referendum decision to leave the European Union. It starts from the position that this decision was a [national catastrophe](#) to which I was completely opposed, and that it was made on the basis of persistent, shameless lies from the Leave campaign which seriously misled the British people. However, the blog will not attempt to re-argue the case for remaining in the EU or for the reversal of the decision, as I do not think that this is in prospect. Instead, I will analyse the unfolding consequences. As an opening post, I will summarise the current situation and in future posts discuss issues and developments as they emerge.

As the summer ends, serious consideration of the consequences of the vote to leave the EU begins. Thus far, the British Prime Minister Theresa May has been able to get away with the formula 'Brexit means Brexit' and thus avoid the obvious questions

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Or, how about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [@ipcc_ch](#) which has been in the news this week because they released the third report in their sixth assessment cycle. Its 207 authors are led by Chairs and teams based at Imperial College and Ahmedabad University.



IPCC ✓
[@IPCC_CH](#)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [#IPCC](#) is the leading world body for the assessment of [#climatechange](#). RT ≠ endorsement 🌍 👤 👤

📍 Geneva, Switzerland (ipcc-media@wmo.int) [ipcc.ch](#)

🕒 Born November 9 📅 Joined September 2010



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Until 2014, IPCC published their reports as books, formally, with a publisher. Now they simply release them on their website as [#greylit](#). What was formal is now grey. What was easy to collect is now hard. What should be in the scholarly record, is now missing.

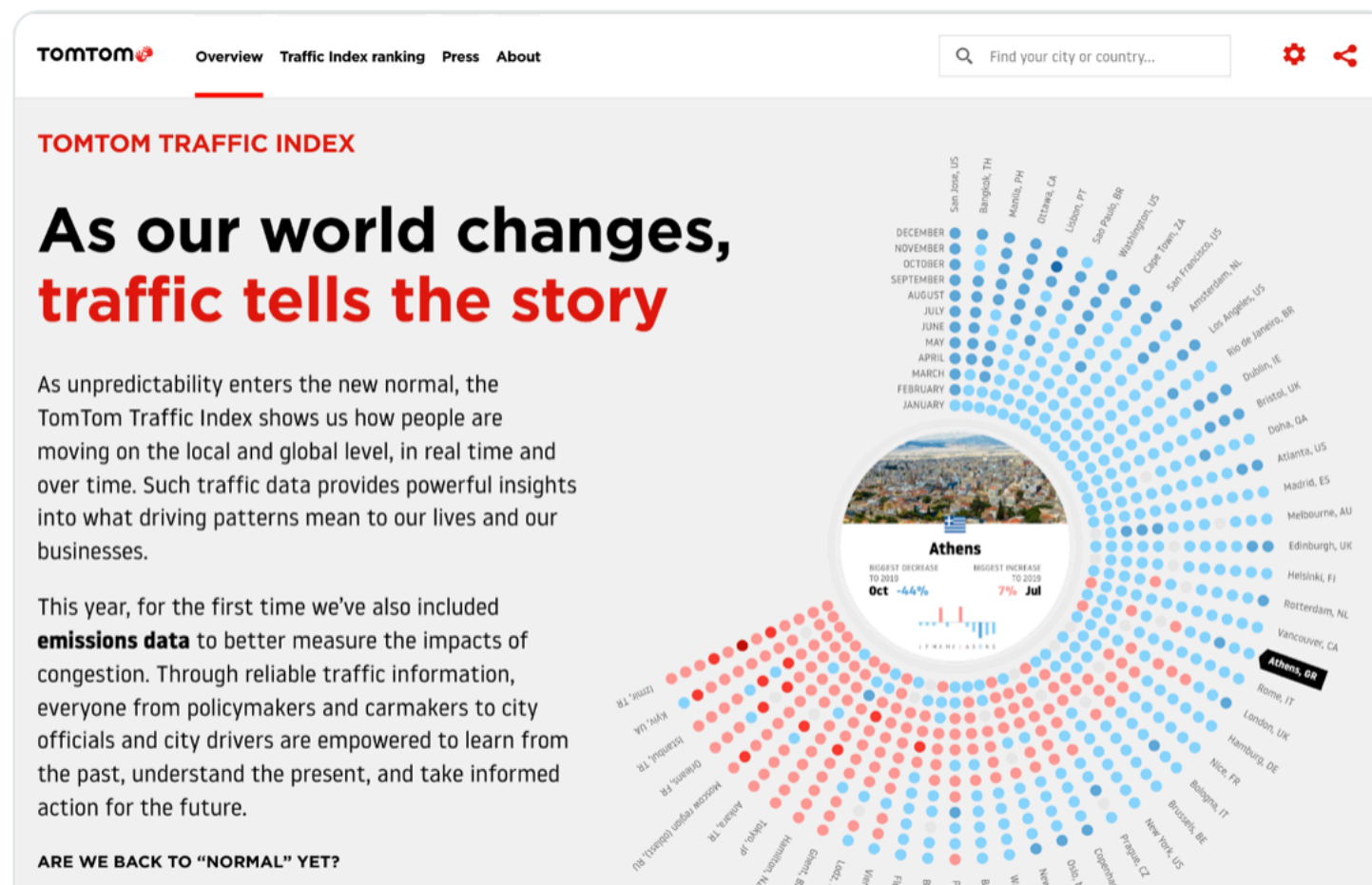




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... and then there's stuff that doesn't involve the prose (or academics). Guess what? We all help to build this one!

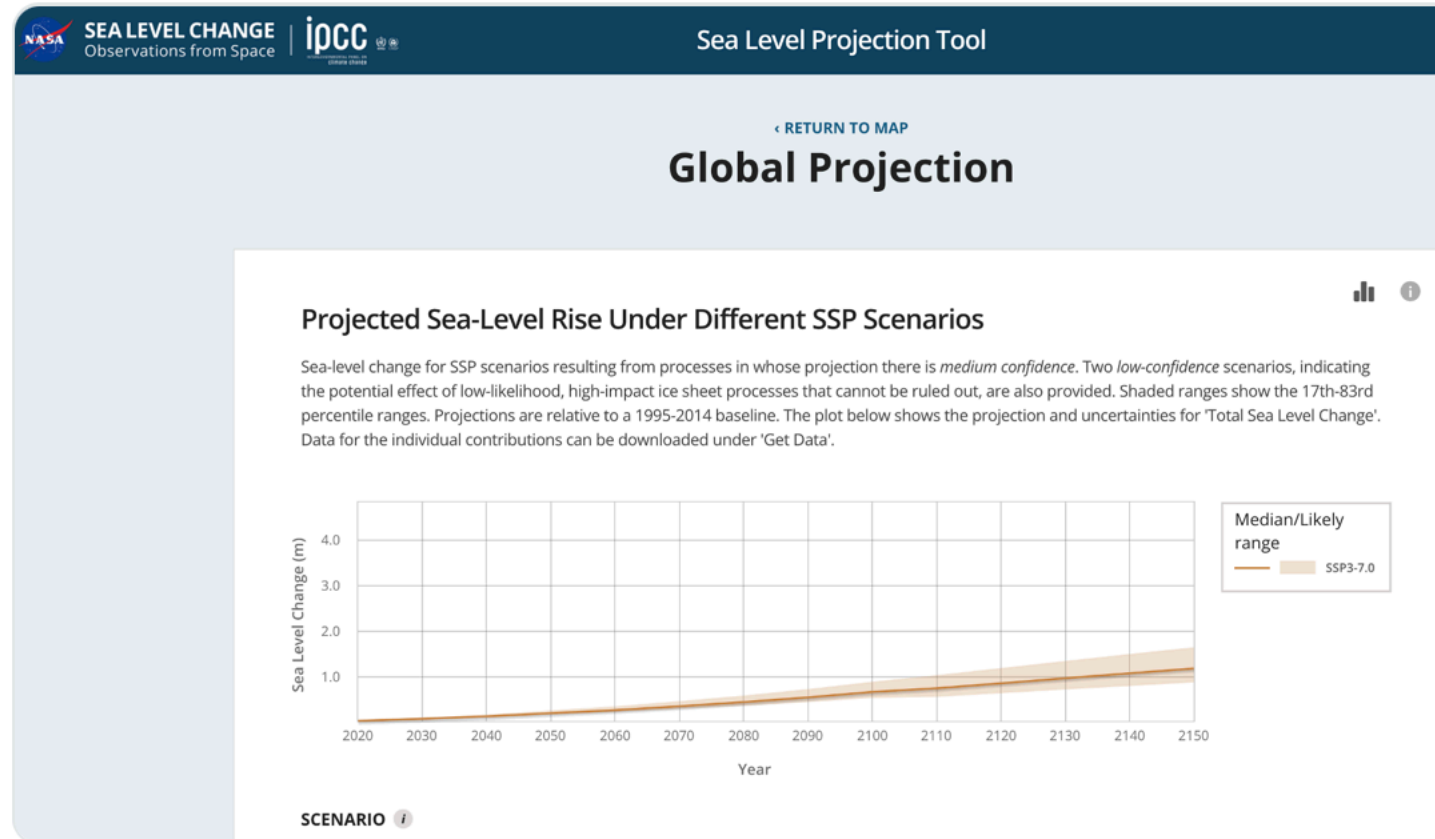
How many libraries have tomtom traffic index catalogued? It's important. Anyone studying [#climate](#), [#urbanplanning](#) or post-Covid [#socialchange](#) needs it.





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And what about this? IPCC's projections for sea-level rise. You might expect to find this interactive dataset and maps on their website. Except it's not there. It's on NASA's website (obviously 🤔). 🙄).





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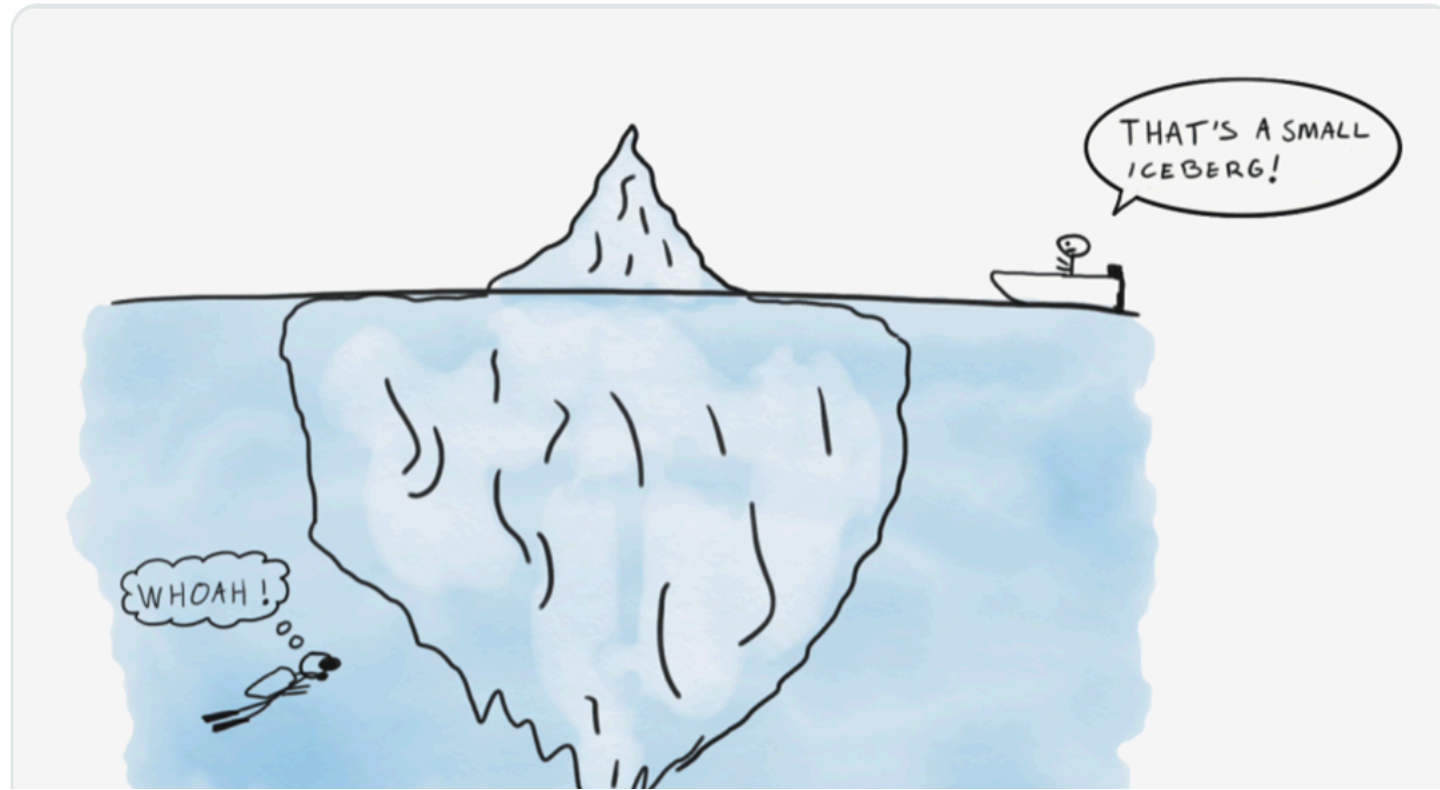
So,

3 examples of 🎓 using Web 2.0 to publish.

5 examples of scholarly content that ❌➡️ scholarly record.

5 examples of content that's hard to archive, hard to cite and at risk of link rot.

Thanks to Web 2.0, this is just the tip of a growing iceberg of 'wild content'.





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One thing is clear . . .





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But how to capture all this 'wild content'?

'Combine' harvesting (ie harvesting, threshing etc in one process) by hand isn't going to work . . . we're going to need machines.

Today, we're at the horse'n'harvest stage of 'combine information harvesting' . . .






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... but it's going well. @PolicyCommons has already harvested 3.2Mn items from 7,500 organisations (IGOs, NGOs, think tanks & research centres) - metadata'd and ready to get past the bouncer to join the scholarly record ...

The screenshot shows the Policy Commons website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Policy Commons logo, menu items for Organizations, Publications, Topics, Tables, and Lists, a COHERENT DIGITAL logo, an Upload button, and a user profile icon. Below the navigation bar is a large yellow banner with a search bar and an Advanced Search link. The search bar contains the text "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, there are suggested search terms: "Try: [Ukraine NEAR NATO](#) [Russia AND sanctions](#) [vaccination](#) [climate change](#)". At the bottom of the banner, there are three statistics: "23,790+ Organizations", "3,193,895+ Publications", and "3,373+ Topics".

Category	Count
Organizations	23,790+
Publications	3,193,895+
Topics	3,373+



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... including all **5** items mentioned in this . You can check them out here <https://policycommons.net/lists/271/fiesole-special-list/>

But we need your help . . . join our network . . .





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... you will know of organisations with 'wild content' that needs bringing into the scholarly record. We're ready when you are.

Thank you for reaching the end of this 🧵!

Feedback and questions welcome.

👏 to [#Fiesole2022](#) for inviting me to create it.

