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Read less. Learn more.

Phil Gooch
Emma Warren-Jones

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The Problem

Too many documents. Not enough time.

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From skim reading

The ethics of algorithms: Mapping the debate

Brent Daniel Mittelstadt[1], Patrick Allo[1], Mariarosaria Taddeo[1,2], Sandra Wachter[1] and Luciano Floridi[1,2]

Abstract

In information societies, operations, decisions and choices previously left to humans are increasingly delegated to algorithms, which may advise, if not decide, about how data should be interpreted and what actions should be taken as a result. More and more often, algorithms mediate social processes, business transactions, governmental decisions, and how we perceive, understand, and interact among ourselves and with the environment. Gaps between the design and operation of algorithms and our understanding of their ethical implications can have severe consequences affecting individuals as well as groups and whole societies. This paper makes three contributions to clarify the ethical importance of algorithmic mediation. It provides a prescriptive map to organise the debate. It reviews the current discussion of ethical aspects of algorithms. And it assesses the available literature in order to identify areas requiring further work to develop the ethics of algorithms.

Keywords

Algorithms, automation, Big Data, data analytics, data mining, ethics, machine learning

Introduction

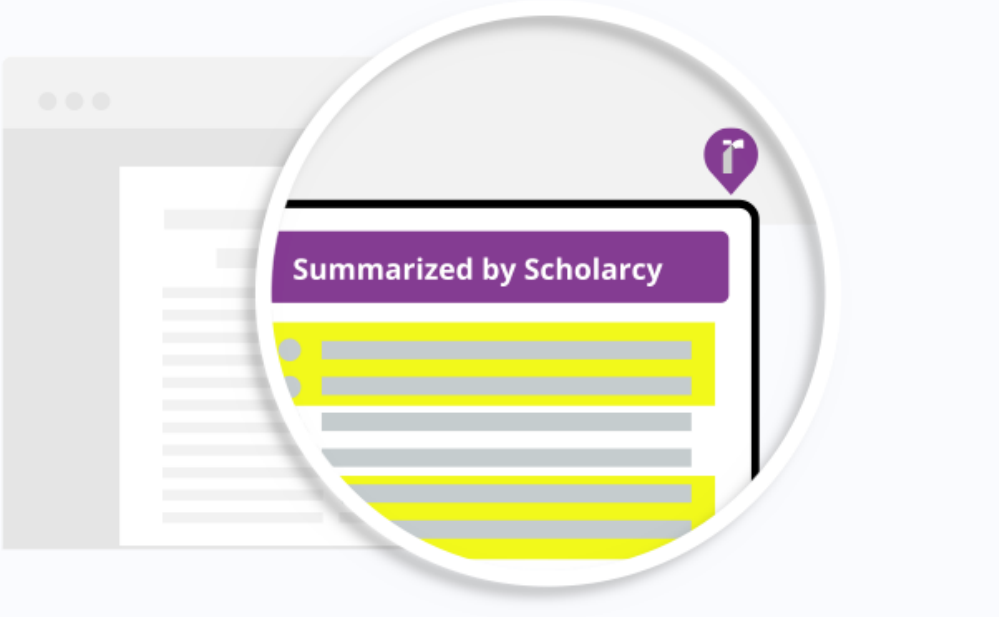
Background

Figure 1. Six types of ethical concerns raised by algorithms.

Plastic Pollution in the World's Oceans: More than 5 Trillion Plastic Pieces Weighing over 250,000 Tons Afloat at Sea

Abstract

...to summarised for you.



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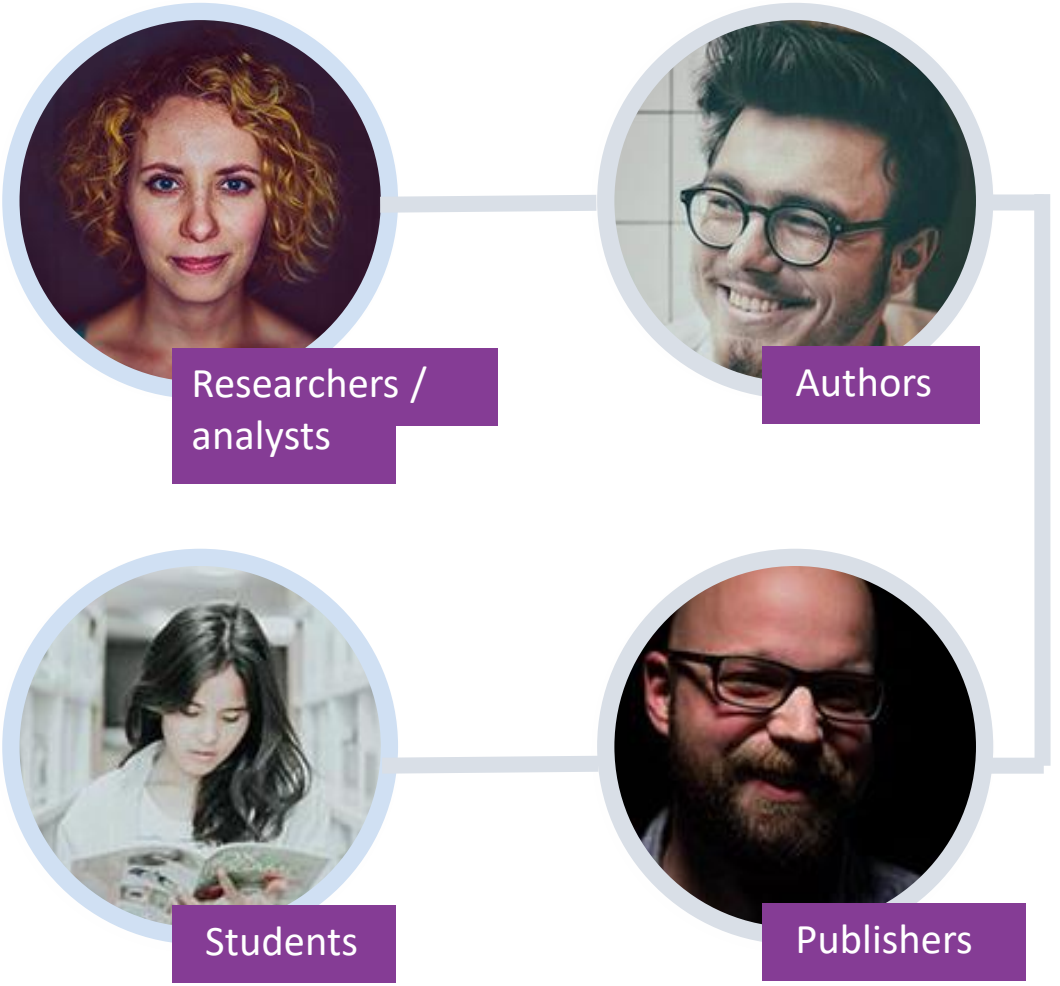
A universal challenge

- Keeping up with growing volume of research.
- Less available time to read.
- Increasingly fluid job roles.
- Changing styles of reading and processing information.



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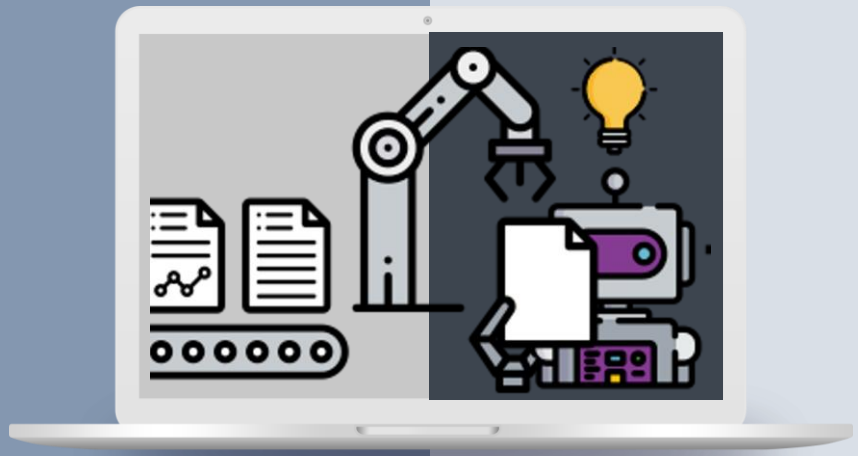
- Filter out noise faster.
- Retain knowledge lost to skim reading.
- Validate research faster.



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