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Testing the Accuracy of the Information on the World Wide Web using the Alta Vista Vision- Article Summary

The article titled “Testing the Accuracy of Information on World Wide Web using the Alta Vista Vision” is authored by Harkness Connell and Jenifer Tipple (Connell and Tipple). The article talks about the authenticity of searches made Via Alta vista vision search engine during the early decade of the internet. It traces the history of internet and explore ways people gradually adopted changes the World Wide Web brought in their lives. The authors cite its use in history during 1960s when World Wide Web was the single source available to governments to retrace messages in case of misadventures. The authors have referred to the useful sources they believe were the forerunner in starting research in this domain. The literature they discussed in the article supports their research claims in different ways. The literature talks about ‘cite evaluation’ and ‘resource identification’. Some literature denoted by authors includes details about information structure and information design.

The subsequent paragraphs include details about the authenticity of information on the web. Authors claim that in view of the broad scope of internet, it is difficult to comment on the validity of its results. Since the search engine finds information using a specific language, consequently no specific search engine can index the complete information passed into it. For authenticating their claims, the authors have included broad analysis of the Alta Vista search engine. The analysis proposes that similar to Alta Vista search engine other search engines record index based on sequence of research queries entered into them. Their research suggests how search engines including the Alta vista engine respond to queries. They evaluated research techniques relating to a specific query entered into the Alta Vista search engine. It was performed by sorting answers about generally ready reference questions.

Other important elements of the research include analysis about ways of navigating within the document, evaluating the quality of web links and about aesthetic and affective aspects of sites in graphics. The aspects mentioned in article pertains to the notion that since large information about any single aspect is stored on the World Wide Web, it, therefore, lower its credibility. The authors strengthen this argument by pointing toward latest mechanisms the internet operators use to make their data most researched and reliable. This aspect compliments the primary research about the authenticity of the research queries. In the final analysis, the authors claim that since there exists a huge presence of duplicate pages over the web, therefore the Alta Vista search engine must be qualified to handle such problems. The article denotes this a particular issue as it influences the research findings made via Alta Vista search engine. The query entered to testify the authenticity of the search results discovered that initial findings provided by the engine were based on average number of duplicate pages, which justify the authors claim that the duplicate pages influence the search results in Alta vista search engine.

The article is a relevant read about studying methods to authenticate search findings made via Alta vista engine. The interesting aspect for the readers in the article is about its publication year. It has been more than a decade the article was published, however, in view of the general methodology the article provides about authenticating the search results remain relevant to date. At present, there are different search engines used by researchers and general populace for internet surfing, but interesting to note is the fact that the Alta vista methodology applies to each search engine to date. As the information on web is more diluted compared to its early days, therefore this methodology serves the purpose better today compared to Alta vista times.

Works Cited:

Connell, Tschera Harkness, and Jennifer E. Tipple. “Testing the Accuracy of Information on the World Wide Web Using the AltaVista Search Engine.” *Reference & User Services Quarterly*, 1999, pp. 360–368.