

CS 115 The Socio-Techno Web

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Start with this short reading about an initiative by Pinterest, intended to provide support for users in stress or anxiety:

<https://www.wired.com/story/pinterest-compassionate-search/>

Web platforms often announce initiatives related to supporting users or communities. But, they rarely let us know of the results. How well do such interventions work, how many users get engaged, does their behavior change over time?

Answering these questions will require data we don't have access to, however, you could try to do your own investigation. Here are some suggestions for what you could try. Feel free to think of others. **You only need to pick one item to investigate.**

1. If you have a Pinterest account, try out searches related to stress in academia or any other topic mentioned in the article. Are the results helpful, in your opinion? [This might work better on the Pinterest mobile app.]
2. Try the same searches in other social platforms that you frequently use. Do you see anything similar to Pinterest's "compassionate search"?
3. Try to find more recent articles that follow up on this theme of compassionate search. Have there been any updates that indicate its success?

Please come to class prepared to share about your brief investigation.