

Summer School 2023 Use Case

Digital Humanism Indicators

H. Werthner, P. Timmers

Task

- Imagine a world-wide observatory to observe and measure the impact of digital technologies on a society
- To be done by a set of indicators you should identify (e.g. privacy, or inclusion)
- These indicators should be applicable on a national and international scale
- Start by using the digital humanism principles as outlined in the Vienna Manifesto on Digital Humanism. Each of these principles may eventually result in a set of related indicators.

Manifesto Principles (see website)

- Digital technologies should be designed to promote democracy and inclusion.
- Privacy and freedom of speech are essential values for democracy
- Establish effective regulations, rules and laws, based on broad public discourse - they should ensure fairness, equality, accountability, and transparency of programs / algorithms.
- Regulators need to intervene with tech monopolies. Governments should not leave all decisions to markets.
- Decisions with consequences to affect human rights must continue to be made by humans.
- Scientific approaches crossing different disciplines are needed, breaking disciplinary silos.
- Universities as a place where knowledge is produced and critical thought is cultivated, have a special responsibility
- Academic and industrial researchers must engage openly with wider society, also defending freedom of thought and science.
- Practitioners everywhere ought to acknowledge their shared responsibility for the impact of ICT
- New educational curricula, combining humanities, the social sciences, and engineering
- Education on informatics and its societal impact must start as early as possible.

Probably not all to be used, maybe some are missing

continue

- Indicators will look at dimensions such as economic, social, political (e.g., democracy) and environmental impact.
- Besides discussing indicators, do some research to identify which data sources and existing reports could be used to measure them (e.g., data shared by the United Nations, UNESCO, UN reports on SDGs, World Economic Forum; EU Digital Economy and Society Index, CAIPD AI and Democratic Values) – use these sources
- Could you use ChatGpt to exercise an indicator (or more)

Additional Considerations:

- The level of granularity of the indicators.
- The availability and reliability of data.

Long Term Goals could be

- Set of indicators that measure the neg and pos impact of IT on society over time
- Make the indicators available to NGOs, Universities, policymakers, businesses, and the public.