

Representational and inferential foundations for possible large-scale information extraction and question-answering from the web

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Many groups have floated the idea that current search engines will be replaced by a new generation of information utilities that **understand** the content of the Web rather than just **indexing** it. Having read, watched, and listened to unimaginably large quantities of text, video, and audio content, such utilities could, in principle, integrate and process information to generate a qualitatively new level of understanding of the world. The results from early prototypes indicate that some problems in representation, inference, ontology, and language need to be solved first.