About TSL

... the Society Library's mission is to archive and contextualize humanity's ideas, ideologies, and world-views to present to the public in sincere inquiry after truth, understanding, and education. Our mission is an educational one, therefore we aim to be objective by processing information through an inter-coded content analysis platform to detect and defend against our potential bias as we systematically identify, organize, and present information in the library.

The Society Library extracts arguments, claims, and evidence from various forms of media to compile databases which represent the ideas and arguments from all points of view starting with the most high-impact, persistent, and polarizing issues; to be visualized and made freely available to the public in a library. The long-term vision of the Society Library is to create a library of ideas not only on social and political subjects, but also philosophy, spirituality, and social values.

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The Society Library (TSL)

Description:

The Society Library’s full legal name is the Benjamin Franklin Society Library, as it was inspired by Benjamin Franklin’s life and works. The idea of the Society Library actually came to the founder by reading Benjamin Franklin’s autobiography. She was particularly inspired by Benjamin Franklin’s Junto club (described in Franklin’s autobiography), in which debates were conducted “in the sincere spirit of inquiry after truth, without fondness for dispute or desire of victory.”

Stakeholder(s):

Databrarians of the Benjamin Franklin Society Library:
We the Databrarians of the Benjamin Franklin Society Library of the United States, in order to form a more perfect intellectual union, establish an effort to organize opinion and information, encourage domestic deliberation, provide for common understanding, promote the general welfare of information, and secure the blessings of liberty of thought to ourselves and our posterity in pursuit of e-lightenment and higher learning for all.

TSL Team

Jamie Joyce: PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sharon Hammond: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Timothy High: CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
Gregory Pardo: WEB AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS DEV
Kevin Wiesmüller: ARGUMENT MINING, SOFTWARE DEV
Stephen Wicklund: SOFTWARE DEV AND DATABASE ENGINEER
Flor Matias: VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE
Logan Anderson: CONTENT CREATOR

Kevin Lüring: LIBRARY EDUCATOR, BOTS AND DEBATE MAPPING
TSL Board
Lance Hudson: DEVOPS, INFOSEC, SOFTWARE DEV, HACKER
Jamie Joyce: EXECUTIVE NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT
Gregory Pardo: WEB AND MOBILE APP DEV

TSL Advisors
Todd Huffman: INFORMATICS
Austin Hyland: DECENTRALIZED TECHNOLOGIES, COMMUNITY BUILDING

TSL Partners:
Our partners share their tech and tools so that the Society Library can perform research to advance its mission.

Canonical Debate Map
IST Research
Reason Score
Digital Peace Talks
Vision
A fully intentional, collaborative humanity which functionally negotiates ideological differences in a manner that maximizes freedom in being through access to information.

Mission
To archive humanity’s ideas, ideologies, and world-views for future generations to access, understand, and more willfully choose to adopt or adapt.

Values

Intellectual Honesty: The Truth is the Truth Regardless of Who Says It ~ We recognize that the truth may come from any source: a conspiratorial website, a harsh rant online, a weaponized piece of content, or even a meme. While the context of the information is important to consider in examination of it, it is never discounted as the possible outlet through which a truth may become known. All pieces of information must be given fair and in-depth examination, as any other.

Intellectual Freedom: Be Not In Possession of Ideas That Possess You ~ We commit to being free from the possession and oppression of opinions and ideas which may cloud or corrupt our judgement, inspire us to anger, upset, frustration, or despair, or move us to dismiss or discount the contribution of another. Our intellectual context is that of complete open-mindedness and sincere inquiry after truth. Detach yourself from opinions - if you have one, it has you.

Intellectual Inclusion: Let no intellectual stone be left unturned ~ Beyond being open to the truth coming from any potential source, we have a commitment to actively seek out fringe, isolated, or distant ideas and opinions and include them in our work. Diversity and inclusion are important, so we must also ensure that marginalized communities’ ideas are represented. The Society Library is completely committed to representing all points of view, this commitment is expressed through the actions we take.

Earnest Service: We do not exist to change what people think, we exist to change the context in which people think ~ As it has been said, the truth may never win, however it will outlive its opponents. We do not work to change the people around us and force them to recognize a truth, we exist to provide a context in which people may discover possible truths on their own, given the tools we have provided and information we present: created in earnest service. Detached from outcomes, we can work humbly in service of generations yet born.

Love: Love of Information and Individuals | Nec Timeo Nec Sperno ~ We do not fear, nor despise any idea, opinion, or argument or the person who holds it. Information is never good or bad, information has the meaning we ascribe to it based on our definitions, classifications, and characteristics. We are never frustrated by nonsensical, grammatically incorrect, or illogical ideas, we see them as ways by which a human expresses a need, even if under many layers of abstraction, distractions, or deceptions. We see our work as an opportunity to connect people with a means of communicating and articulating their world-view; potentially through the expressions of others, which is preserved in our work. We work out of love for this, and out of love for what information can do for others.

Information

Individuals

Truthfulness: We Also Signed ProTruth Pledge ~ Please hold us accountable. We are committed to: - Sharing Truth - Honoring Truth - Encouraging Truth If you would like to review the pledge or sign the pledge yourself, you can visit their website at: ProTruthPledge.org
Ideas, Ideologies & World-Views

Create a multi-media educational database of society’s ideas, ideologies, and world-views

The Society Library has developed methods for extracting the arguments, claims, evidence, and ideas from various sources of media. We use traditional content analysis, big data analysis, argument mining, and methodologies we’ve developed to perform the work of extracting and archiving content for the library. The Society Library is supported in these efforts by other organizations who are partners in this mission. We put in place specific strategies to overcome sampling and content analysis bias, as well as strictly adhere to our virtues and values so as not to exempt or unfairly manage ideas or information. The Society Library doesn’t just extract the ideas textually, but is also compiling a reference of the media from which ideas are extracted, so any idea can be viewed in the various forms of media which it may have been extracted from (film, graphical depiction, satirical cartoon, etc.). The purpose of this is to create a multi-media educational database of society’s ideas, ideologies, and world-views to improve the process by which humanity inherits ideas, generationally.

1. Arguments, Claims & Evidence

Extract arguments, claims, and evidence from various forms of media

We mine arguments, claims, evidence and ideas from: Scholarly Journal Articles and Data | Books, Textbooks, eBooks, etc. | Legal Documents, Legislation, Political Content | Films, Documentaries, Videos, Television | Essays and Papers

2. Ideas & Arguments

Compile databases which represent the ideas and arguments from all points of view starting with the most high-impact, persistent, and polarizing issues

3. Availability & Visualization

Visualize and make ideas and arguments freely available to the public in a library

Administrative Information
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