

PHILOSOPHY, SOFTWARE

VICIOUS CYCLE?

10.08.2006

PNAS has an interesting [paper](#): Until now I had believed that the major search engines provide some kind of self-enforcing loops as they show web sites first that are already highly visited. Visitors of these prime websites will then know (and link) only these websites giving them even a higher rank (rich-get-richer). But that does not seem to be true. Nay, Nay. The use of search engines actually had an egalitarian effect as shown by empirical and theoretical arguments. On the other hand I can not remember an own paper, that would have received more than 50 citations without being in an “upper-class” journal. Did you ever want to know how Google works? Check [Ghemawat S GH, Leung S-T: The Google file system. ACM, SOSP’03, October 19-22,2003, Bolton Landing, New York.](#)

CC-BY-NC Science Surf accessed 10.01.2026 