

Collaborative Memos 2023-02-22 to 2023-22-25

Collaborative Memos 2023

This is a communication tool for associates at the [World Center for the Control of Excessive Suffering](#)

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Entries by Manu Herran

2023-02-22

Objective and lines of work

The objective of the "About Suffering" project is to promote the **rigorous and systematic** research on **suffering as a phenomenon** through the impulse of the network of content generators (people and organizations) about suffering as a phenomenon in which synergies can be developed such as, and particularly:

- Creating and updating an index of **people** and **organizations** hosted at aboutsuffering.org (a photo and about 5 lines describing each). We should lean on and mention other indexes that already exist.
- The establishment of **backup copies** of the content of some web servers of researchers and organizations onto others
- The promotion of a generational change in suffering research, encouraging **young researchers**.
- Establishment of a system of annual honorable mentions for outstanding researchers ("Research on Suffering" **awards**). The awards could take place on April 7, on the occasion of World Health Day. For that, we can establish an **annual newsletter** regarding the awards and other news in the scene (we can rely on algosphere for this yearly content).
- Facilitate the conditions so that, in the event of contacting a potential high-profile promoter / manager or a significant **financing** opportunity, we have an intellectual and organizational framework that is as developed and structured as possible, offering maximum credibility to the project of creating a discipline for the rigorous and systematic study of suffering as a phenomenon, and speeding up the future generation of a Project Memorandum for potential funders or donors.

Schedule

Calendar pending

Assets

From a donation, this project has nearly 1,600 USD on date of 2023-03-13

Risks

Risk	Mitigation plan
Discouragement, feeling of not moving forward. The project slows down, cornered by other urgent priorities.	Establish a monthly checkpoint for monitoring
Develop initiatives that do not have support	Request periodic feedback from

among researchers	researchers to ensure that both the initiatives and the way in which they are structured fit with their expectations
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Next steps

Step	Status
Setup a website with some templates and content	Done
Fix the HTTPS error	Ongoing
Close the site to public access and set it up "At work"	Ongoing
First draft of the document plan	Ongoing
Contact some friends in the SFE about the establishment of backup copies of the content of web servers of researchers and organizations onto others, and start saving some copies: Aatu Koskensilta (acausalcompassion.info), Daniel Dorado (Animal Ethics) Jonathan (OPIS), David Pearce, Brian Tomasik...	
To include a subscription mechanism on the website	
Draft lists of Organizations and People (and other Indexes)	
Contact some close researchers to get feedback on the project	
Define website structure and contents. Draft: About, Network (Organizations, People), Backups, Awards, Yearly newsletter? (Subscribe/Register), Contact	
Set a calendar, including a monthly checkpoint for monitoring and continuous feedback from researchers	
Setup possible presence in social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, youtube?). Think about pros and cons. Focus on young researchers' social tools.	
Establish the categories of mentions or awards. Define the awards mechanism. A	

voting system? A team made up of each year's winners plus some randomly chosen network members vote for the next winners? Each member of the jury, after voting in a certain year, appoints a new member of the jury for the following year?	
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2023-09-04

Manu:

At

<https://aboutsuffering.org/>

When it says

Facilitate the conditions so that, in the event of contact with a potential high-level promoter/manager or a major funding opportunity, we have a well developed intellectual and organizational framework, offering maximum credibility to the plans to create a World Institute for the Study of Suffering and a Headquarters for the Control of Suffering.

The word credibility is probably mine as far as I can remember, but it don't like it now. I'd rephrase that paragraph. I don't like "in the event" nor "facilitate" neither...

In summary, it was a tactical though that I think does not apply now so I'd remove the entire paragraph.

Robert:

Hmm, we would need a third opinion on that!

For me, it is one of the best paragraphs on the page, because it talks about what we need most to get things done, a great promoter and a great funder who would allow the creation of a full-fledged institute and a headquarters. The wording could be quite different, though. And about the content, perhaps you mean by a no longer relevant "tactical thought" that we now should do things all by ourselves, without worrying about possible outside help... Then I might agree... As I wrote in Guide for Participants, we have to use the means "at hand" that correspond to the current phase of project implementation, instead of wasting time looking for other means...

Manu:

What about this

Structure a Business Proposal and 5-years project plan aimed at a potential high-level promoter/manager or a major funding opportunity, with the complete intellectual and organizational framework necessary to initiate the project of creating a Global Institute for the Study of Suffering and a Headquarters for the Control of Suffering.

Robert:

Hmm, could the following be on the right track?

Come up with an intellectual and organizational framework that is attractive enough for high-level promoters/managers/granters to consider participating in the creation of

a Global Institute for the Study of Suffering and a Headquarters for the Control of Suffering.

I realize I was not incisive enough, let me change a few words:

Come up with an intellectual and organizational framework that is attractive enough for high-level promoters/managers/granters to consider initiating the project of a Global Institute for the Study of Suffering and a Headquarters for the Control of Suffering.

Manu:

I think it's perfect!

Robert:

Alright, thanks! I will now try to complete phase one, mainly by starting a little bit of the ebook with Pressbooks. I hope to come back to you before long, and then settle the last details before we ask a few new people to join us.

Entries by Robert Daoust

2023-03-09

Participants at this point in time are Manuel Herran and I.

On February 25th I wrote:

“The website might be a basis, a springboard, for a collective book, under the direction of Jonathan perhaps, that would collect the first contributions by several friends concerning algoscience. That collective work could constitute a first handbook of algoscience. The website should be about suffering and about nothing else: it is too easy to be diverted into other topics that seem related to suffering but are not suffering per se.”

In particular today I want to emphasize that works about suffering, be it in ethics or any other field, do not have suffering as their first object of interest, but rather ethics or any other interest: we can use those works for doing algoscience, and vice-versa (other fields can use algoscience), but we should take care not to confound different specialties, whose approaches are always uniquely intended.

Today I add the following:

- The website might look like the seed, and the very beginning, of an institute for algoscience. That new discipline is what is needed first and foremost. I guess the format of “***the online website of a would-be institute***” might be the best road to get where we are heading.
- Normally, I guess, the discipline should begin by collecting data, and organizing the collection as the presentation of a discipline. The first collection of data can indeed be done by “Creating and updating an index of **people** and **organizations** hosted at aboutsuffering.org” as mentioned on this page under Objective and lines of work. In passing, there is the following that I'd like to mention: [Immediate Options for](#)

[Genetically Improving Animal Welfare](#), which points to [Invincible Wellbeing](#) and Jacob Shwartz-Lucas plus others.

- About Jonathan Leighton, his work with Felicia Knaul and others might lead to developments in the field of quantification and evaluation of suffering. Algometry may indeed be the spearhead of growth in algoscience. However, general theoretical basis are also essential for a discipline and there cannot be appropriate algometry without them — although quantification and evaluation of suffering can be advanced in palliative care, for instance.

Other things I am adding today:

About this sentence under Objective and lines of work:

“Facilitate the conditions so that, in the event of a significant **financing** opportunity, we have an intellectual and organizational framework that is as developed and structured as possible (...) speeding up the future generation of a Project Memorandum for potential funders or donors.”

Yes, that’s fine, but put more emphasis on the opportunity of finding a general promoter/manager than significant financing, because the promoter/manager will be able to easily find the money once he/she decides to adopt the project. I think the scarce and critical resource for us is not funders or donors but masterminds who can plan and direct a complex undertaking.

2023-06-21

June 21st is the longest day of the year, therefore I should find time today for doing some work here. I am being ironical, because I was unable to contribute since several months, for various reasons. Although aboutsuffering.org is the priority in my professional life, it might be that at 74 years old I am willy-nilly driven toward retirement. Anyway, let’s try...

I suggest a title for the homepage : **Center for the Study and Control of Suffering**
This would replace “AboutSuffering: building the science of suffering.”, as well as “About Suffering” in the header of the website.

The 3 columns on homepage seem alright for now, as also the rest of the page. As to the Resources page, it is a great beginning.

I think that the main thrust of the project now should be to give it a sense, a meaning, a direction that will guarantee its success. I’ll try to elaborate on this (in practice around the collection of Resources) in the days to come, probably along the lines of thought of a Center for the Study and Control of Suffering (if that title is adequate for the purpose).

2023-06-22

Searching for a special software that would facilitate everything... <https://www.notion.so/>
<https://basecamp.com/>? Could the Center work as an enterprise where the “knowledge management” for study and control is made through our “Resources” on suffering?

<https://www.g2.com/categories/knowledge-base>
https://www.g2.com/categories/knowledge-base?tab=highest_rated
https://www.g2.com/categories/knowledge-base?tab=easiest_to_use
<https://www.g2.com/categories/content-management>
<https://www.g2.com/categories/reference-management>

<https://www.g2.com/compare/guru-vs-notion>
<https://www.terasoltechnologies.com/blog/work-management-tools-notion-trello-coda>

<https://unito.io/blog/best-project-management-apps/>

<https://www.kmworld.com/>
<https://www.kmworld.com/WhitePapers/BestPractices>
https://www.kmworld.com/About/What_is_Knowledge_Management

“Increasingly KM is seen as ideally encompassing the whole bandwidth of information and knowledge likely to be useful to an organization, including knowledge external to the organization—knowledge emanating from vendors, suppliers, customers, etc., and knowledge originating in the scientific and scholarly community, the traditional domain of the library world. Looked at in this light, KM extends into environmental scanning and competitive intelligence.”

See also: “(4) Communities of Practice (CoPs)“

This idea of a software came to me today from a Facebook post by Vlastimil Vohanka about organizing his many documents or sources of information (can't find this post now, will have to ask him).

2023-06-23

A more precise formulation is required to describe what is the Center : aboutsuffering.org is a (world) coordination center for the (scientific) study and control of suffering. The word coordination adds an indispensable precision to what does the Center. Scientific is probably also an indispensable word, as other approaches to suffering are numerous but seem limited in their results so far compared to what science could achieve, and restricting the Center to science should foster a revolution by forcing us to take new, less-traveled roads. “World” can be let down if scientific is used, but otherwise there is a need to precise what kind of coordination is intended. Of course, science is a main axis of this project... I am just a bit wary that a word like “scientific”, as well as the unavoidable “suffering”, may be off-putting.

The Center would operate with a specific tool or app or platform taken among softwares for project and knowledge management. This very G-doc where we are now, entitled “About Suffering - Project Plan”, already has several elements to be included in the software tool. The Center would be an enterprise where participants are doing work or interventions according to the plan and thus, concretely and methodically, progress could be made toward success, that is to say toward the advent of an active scientific discipline about suffering.

The Center is for coordination, or for a self-serve digital portal having to do with library services and collaboration on KM.

2023-06-28

It seems that KM is not exactly what we need. KM is used in enterprise to let everyone know how to accomplish a task, handle a situation, get a job done... Information management might be a better term for what we're looking for...

<https://shelf.io/blog/knowledge-management-vs-information-management/#:~:text=Information%20management%20is%20focused%20on,%2C%20using%2C%20and%20managing%20knowledge> :

“In essence, all knowledge is information, but not all information is knowledge.

There are a few key ways that knowledge management and information management differ in businesses:

- Information management is focused on data and IT, while knowledge management is focused on people and processes.
- Information management is collecting, storing, and accessing information, while knowledge management is creating, sharing, using, and managing knowledge.
- Information management is about making sure the right people have the ability to find and use information, while knowledge management is about applying knowledge to solve problems or make decisions.”

[Why Knowledge Sharing in Scientific Research Teams Is Difficult to Sustain: An Interpretation From the Interactive Perspective of Knowledge Hiding Behavior](#)

[Information Science and Knowledge Management | Book series home](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_management_system

Strangely, WordPress is already indeed a tool for the Coordination Center!!!

But see also https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_management,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge_organization,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knowledge_organization_system

2023-06-29

Today, solutions seem in the following directions, if business KM can be adapted to our needs:

<https://www.knoco.com/default.htm>

Ideally, a company like Knoco would give us free service because we are a ‘charity’, and also, more importantly, they would help us in exchange of the novelties that we would bring to them because we are a very special case that might open a vast domain for KM beyond the world of business into the world of science (for the advancement of knowledge in various fields...). See on Knoco site under About KM the pages about Governance (spirit), Roles (tasks), Technology (tools), Process (know how)... See also [Knowledge assets | Knoco Ltd](#), and [Knowledge Assets - guidance from Knoco Ltd](#).

2023-09-26: I think maybe I found the page that started last June my interest in KM for science: <https://www.knoco.com/knowledge-management.htm>

See also <https://helpjuice.com/blog/knowledge-management>
<https://helpjuice.com/blog/team-collaboration>
<https://helpjuice.com/blog/knowledge-base>
[Corporate Wiki vs Knowledge Base: Which is Better?](https://helpjuice.com/blog/best-knowledge-base-software)
<https://helpjuice.com/blog/best-knowledge-base-software>

See also <https://www.g2.com/categories/reference-management>
In particular: <https://www.papersapp.com/>, <https://www.mendeley.com/>,
<https://about.proquest.com/en/products-services/refworks/>,
<https://clarivate.com/products/scientific-and-academic-research/research-discovery-and-workflow-solutions/webofscience-platform/> (this last one is by the owner of End Note)

My bibliography on suffering: <https://pinboard.in/u:RobertDaoust>
It should be incorporated in the whole knowledge base of our Resources...

2023-06-30

In academia, the equivalent of something like <https://www.notion.so> might be <https://www.pcmag.com/reviews/instructure-canvas-lms> (note in passing that, in Canvas, “Commons” means what we call here Resources). Canvas seems better than other softwares of its kind, but it seems still far from what we need, which might be an hybrid of Notion and Canvas and <https://therefore.net/> etc.

See also <https://www.opentext.com/products/documentum-platform>

- <https://www.opentext.nl/products-and-solutions/products/enterprise-content-management/documentum-platform>
- <https://blogs.opentext.com/report-findings-omdia-universe-content-services-platforms>

Also [Setting Up a New Library and Information Service | ScienceDirect](#): this 2003 book would have to be updated, but perhaps it has some good ideas.

My intention now, if all this may be interesting according to you, is to make (or rather continue to make) a very rough beginning of what would be on the website aboutsuffering.org before we ask other people to come and take part. I have in mind things like people and organizations who work on suffering per se, the main documents or bibliographies that we have, and the activities that would occur through the site. Then, useful links to KM tools would be also put up in order to begin contacting people and organizations that could help us with that. [Next Steps](#) here above also have some of those things that I would do.

2023-07-01

Elements from the “Algoscience Institute” project:

- From [Documentation about creating a new discipline](#):

See the bookmarks or links about Resources and Administration:

Collection, Classification, Terminology (def), Measurement, Control...

Staffing, Funding, Administration...

Portal

Leadership

- From [Toward an Institute of Algoscience](#):

- Knowledge management
 - Developing a library and information service (see for instance [Setting Up a New Library and Information Service](#)), including bibliographic databases, repertories, indexes, abstracts and reviews of documents on all topics, persons, organizations involved in suffering-related activities. This also involves basic work in terminology and classification. A library and information service is an essential but very expensive tool that is sorely lacking for those who deal with suffering, whether they are theoreticians, practitioners or from the general public.
 - Evaluating, summarizing, synthesizing or interrelating documents, and proposing the best ones for further study or implementation in practice.⁴
 - Providing [media monitoring services](#) for those who work on suffering.
 - Publishing a first periodical in algoscience.
 - Publishing an *Algoscience Handbook* for the general public, and educational material for courses at various levels.
 - Preserving, as a digital legacy, specialized websites dealing with suffering, like [The Hedonistic Imperative](#), [Essays on Reducing Suffering](#), [Algosphere Alliance](#), [Socrethics](#), [World Suffering](#), [About Suffering in the World](#), etc.

- From [Promoters' private workshop](#):

[Potential participants in the project](#)

[Precursors in algoscience](#)

[Sponsors-Funders](#)

[Other potential participants](#)

[Potential members of the Steering Committee](#)

[Consultants](#)

2023-07-06

The first production of the Center might be a **handbook**, on paper and/or online, that would allow those who are interested to access a systematic body of knowledge on suffering for getting information or for contributing information.

For that purpose, we would need a knowledge management software that allows to do things like the following:

[20 Examples of Knowledge Management - Simplicable](#)

- [14 Examples of Knowledge Analysis - Simplicable](#)
- [10 Types of Information Analysis - Simplicable](#)
- [8 Types of Knowledge Transfer - Simplicable](#)
- [70 Examples of Knowledge Processes - Simplicable](#)
- [24 Types of Research - Simplicable](#)
- [19 Examples of Secondary Research - Simplicable](#)
- [42 Examples of Records Management - Simplicable](#)

And there are some 20 other such pages that could be relevant:

- <https://simplicable.com/new/knowledge-examples>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/types-of-knowledge>
- <https://simplicable.com/en/knowledge>
- <https://simplicable.com/IT/information-technology>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/domain-knowledge>
- <https://simplicable.com/science/qualitative-information>
- <https://simplicable.com/en/information-environment>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/information-management>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/information-consumption>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/information-science>
- <https://simplicable.com/thinking/classification>
- <https://simplicable.com/en/knowledge-use>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/knowledge-product>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/information-asset>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/knowledge-discovery>
- <https://simplicable.com/quality/document-quality>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/knowledge-audit>
- <https://simplicable.com/en/knowledge-quality>
- <https://simplicable.com/en/knowledge-risk>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/methodology-vs-body-of-knowledge>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/actionable-information>
- <https://simplicable.com/new/document-control>

As I see it, then, the website aboutsuffering.org would only have the following pages:

1. a static homepage that would be at the same time its “about” page explaining what is the website
2. a Resources page with many dependent pages
3. a contact page
4. a log in or sign in page that would bring the user to his-her account and/or to
5. an entry page for collaborative work (some Knoco type of “business” knowledge management portal with possibly a kind of wikispace for the Handbook)

The homepage/aboutpage would say something like this (exact wording remains to be improved):

This website is proposed as a global coordination center for the scientific study and control of suffering.

The Center would operate with a specific software tool or app or platform for organizing collaboration in this knowledge management project.

It would be an enterprise where participants are doing theoretical or applied operations according to a plan and thus, concretely and methodically, progress could be made toward the advent of an active scientific discipline about suffering.

This “algoscience” aims to obtain verifiable and cumulative knowledge concerning the whole variety of matters specifically related to the phenomenon of suffering, in accordance with recognized scientific or academic methods.

The objective of “About Suffering” is to promote rigorous and systematic research on suffering as a phenomenon. This includes several initiatives as:

- to establish a [framework](#) of a modern scientific discipline to study suffering.
- to provide a [taxonomy of suffering](#), a tool for collecting and classifying information concerning the “kinds of suffering, people or animals who suffer, causes of suffering, people and organizations who cause suffering, solutions or strategies relative to suffering, people and organizations who contribute to stop or prevent excessive suffering, documents relevant to the systematic study of suffering,” etc.
- to promote the development systematic tools for the [measurement of suffering](#).
- to collaborate with researchers, institutions and other organizations for the development of this discipline.
- to collaborate with non-profits, altruists and [action-teams](#) for an organized minimization of unacceptable sufferings.

Also we want to go toward objectives like the following:

- The establishment of **backup copies** of the content of some web servers of researchers and organizations onto others
- The promotion of a generational change in suffering research, encouraging **young researchers**.
- Establishment of a system of annual honorable mentions for outstanding researchers (“Research on Suffering” **awards**). The awards could take place on April 7, on the occasion of World Health Day. For that, we can establish an **annual newsletter** regarding the awards and other news in the scene (we can rely on algosphere for this yearly content).
- Facilitate the conditions so that, in the event of contacting a potential high-profile promoter / manager or a significant **financing** opportunity, we have an intellectual and organizational framework that is as developed and structured as possible, offering maximum credibility to the project of creating a discipline for the rigorous and systematic study of suffering as a phenomenon, and speeding up the future generation of a Project Memorandum for potential funders or donors.

We have compiled a list of Resources, Indexes, Thesauri, Glossaries, Organizations, Academic journals, Websites, People, Books, Films and videos about suffering available here: <https://aboutsuffering.org/resources/>.

Assets: from a donation, this project currently has 1,600 USD.

2023-07-20

An improved version of the preceding:

This website is proposed as a global coordination center for the scientific study and control of suffering.

The Center operates with a specific software tool (details to come) for organizing collaboration. Participants here (signing up for an account will be possible soon) are generating content according to a plan for developing *algoscience*, the “specific” theoretical and applied discipline that is required for making systematic progress regarding knowledge on suffering.

The Center objectives are to promote several initiatives such as:

- Establishing a framework (for instance: [Developing the science about suffering](#)) of a modern scientific discipline to study suffering.
- Developing a body of knowledge and a tool for collecting and classifying information concerning suffering (see [this](#) for instance). This would include: types of suffering, people or animals who suffer, causes of suffering, people and organizations who cause suffering, solutions or strategies relative to suffering, people and organizations who contribute to stop or prevent excessive suffering, documents relevant to the systematic study of suffering, etc. See also our beginning list of Resources here: <https://aboutsuffering.org/resources/>.
- Developing systematic tools for the [measurement of suffering](#).
- Establishing a collaboration with various researchers, academic institutions and other organizations for the development of algoscience.
- Establishing a collaboration with various benevolent individuals and organizations (see for instance [Action-Teams](#)) for an organized minimization of unacceptable sufferings.

Also we want to realize things like the following:

- Facilitating the conditions so that, in the event of contacting a potential high-profile promoter / manager or a significant financing opportunity, we have an intellectual and organizational framework that is as developed and structured as possible, offering maximum credibility to the project of creating a world institute for the study of suffering.
- Establishing annual honorable mentions (Research on Suffering Awards) for outstanding researchers.
- Promoting a generational change in suffering research, encouraging young researchers.
- Establishing backup copies of the work of some researchers and organizations specialized on suffering.
- Establishing a specialized journal.

- Increasing our assets: from a donation, this project currently has 1,600 USD. An amount of approximately 20 million USD would allow to establish a first institute for the study of suffering.

2023-08-03

After many days of research, I tentatively choose [Confluence](#) as the software for working as a team at the Center for Study and Control of Suffering. Login seems to be at <https://id.atlassian.com/login> and our address is at <https://suffering.atlassian.net/wiki/home>. I added Manu as a team member, he should have received an email from the company. I will try to explore Confluence in the coming days.

Eventually it seems that [Clarivate](#) would have great softwares for us...

Edited: After many days lost in trial, Confluence was not appropriate, I chose Guru instead.

2023-08-15

<https://www.unocha.org/>

<https://www.worldhumanitarianday.org/>

Can this be related to a Center for... the control of suffering?

test embed a Guru card:

```
<iframe src="https://embed.getguru.com/card/i8BA7RrT/test-of-card" frameBorder="0" width="500" height="400" style="margin:10px;max-height:100%;max-width:100%" allowFullScreen></iframe>
```

Our WordPress website should have a header image... and many other features. See <https://wordpress.com/go/web-design/how-to-choose-the-best-wordpress-theme/> (this parag has been copied in [Tending our Web Infrastructure](#))

2023-08-17

I did correctly install the Guru platform, it seems suitable, but **I realize that we must use the means “at hands” that correspond to the actual phase of the project implementation. We must work as if it was “for us” rather than bothering that it’s also for “the whole world”.** (the preceding phrase is copied in [Guide for Partners](#)) **At this time, I will try and see what we can do with this G-doc “Project Plan”, the aboutsuffering.org WordPress website, and possibly the Guru knowledge management software: a first presentable result for the end of phase one should be available after a few days of work, I will make an announcement when ready.**

Project implementation phases

Phase 1: with initiators — begin the set up

Phase 2: with a few teammates — set the things in place

Phase 3: opening at large — official public launching

Phase 4: extension — reach normal functioning

Phase 5: super extension — reach super functioning

I asked this on my FB page yesterday:

A question for friends on Facebook!

Is there any software, with AI components, that can deal with a body of “scientific” knowledge data in the same way that a knowledge management software like Guru (or Notion, Confluence, Bloomfire, Helpjuice, etc.) deals with a business knowledge base?

My idea is to produce a “Compilation of Knowledge about Suffering” that can be developed, structured and shared in various ways. More details at <https://aboutsuffering.org/>

The compilation may have a few hundreds or thousands entries at the beginning, but it might become huge, with perhaps millions of entries.

Using Guru seems a possible option. However, if there’s something better out there, more appropriate for scientific or academic research, then it would be great to begin with it instead.

Added here a day later: I should ask the above question to more appropriate people like

- Quora, Reddit...
- Knoco, Clarivate, Zotero
- Authors of
 - A Cyc-based Web System for Semantic Organization, Search and Browsing of Knowledge Items: <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/cisis.2011.94>
 - A Web-based Knowledge Management System for Scientific Research Team: <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/WETICE.2017.35>
 - Mobile Collaborative Knowledge Management System : <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/cscwd.2008.4537044>

Added two days later (about bibliography and tools for research):

See also <https://www.g2.com/categories/reference-management> (for instance <https://www.zotero.org/>)

See also [Data and information visualization -- example:](#) <https://www.mindmeister.com/>

For bibliography : see Mendeley or Zotero or... (could my Pinboard bibliography be transferred in such tools?)

See <https://www.octoparse.com/blog/30-tools-resources-for-research> and <https://slashdot.org/software/academic-research/>

See also <https://learning.edanz.com/software-tools-for-researchers/>, <https://www.edanz.com/scientific-solutions>, <https://www.edanz.com/study-design>

<https://www.petal.org/>

Ask Clarivate first

Ask perhaps LinkedIn (find interested groups or indiv there)

2023-08-24

Today I explored how to publish a book on the web and found the following:

<https://printmy.blog/democratize-the-other-publishing/>

<https://printmy.blog/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Print-My-Blog-the-Bookdigital.pdf>

<https://pressbooks.com/plans-pricing/>

<https://pressbooks.directory/>

<https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/neuroscience/>

<https://herothemes.com/blog/how-to-self-publish-a-book-online-using-wordpress/>

~~<https://wordpress.org/plugins/commenting-feature/> this link is about Multicollab, a plugin for collaboration on a WordPress site (there are thousands of plugins for WP). Some users say Multicollab does not work well, less well than continuing to use G-doc.~~

What/Who/How

Mission, vision, values, history, goals, objectives

Take part as (and as much as) you wish, and if your copyright is a concern let's see it

KM (have a manager!): create-acquire, organize-structure, share-learn-teach...

Ask Clarivate or authors of article (le français et les italiens...)

Where:

[About Suffering - Project Plan](#)

[Pressbooks](#)

G-docs:

[Project Plan](#)

[How-to Guide for Participants](#)

[Backup copy for aboutsuffering.org](#)

Suppress Guru? Yes (trial ends on September 9), keep the following:

Reference on KM

A Cyc-based Web System for Semantic Organization, Search and Browsing of Knowledge Items: <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/cisis.2011.94>

A Web-based Knowledge Management System for Scientific Research Team: <https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/WETICE.2017.35>

Mobile Collaborative Knowledge Management System :

<https://sci-hub.mkxa.top/10.1109/cscwd.2008.4537044>

See also <https://www.g2.com/categories/reference-management> (for instance <https://www.zotero.org/>)

See also [Data and information visualization -- example:](#)

<https://www.mindmeister.com/>

For bibliography : see Mendeley or Zotero or... (could my Pinboard bibliography be transferred in such tools?)

See <https://www.octoparse.com/blog/30-tools-resources-for-research> and <https://slashdot.org/software/academic-research/>

See also <https://learning.edanz.com/software-tools-for-researchers/>, <https://www.edanz.com/scientific-solutions>, <https://www.edanz.com/study-design>

Finish the first set up. See for the right tools afterwards...

WP theme: page centered on homepage but elsewhere how to have regular pages?
Also have an image in header.

2023-08-31

Change the theme used in WordPress? Use wordpress.org instead of .com?

2023-10-25

I wrote the following In response to Jonathan, with whom I reviewed the project on October 19 and who asked what new concept of suffering I'm talking about that would help suffering-focused initiatives to succeed more:

A new concept of suffering is needed, among the other current conceptions, because only such a concept allows a global and specific vision of suffering that enables the creation of global institutions (for the knowledge and management of suffering) capable of providing the kind of large-scale collaboration needed between those of us who want to overcome the obstacles that fundamentally limit our various activities to alleviate suffering.

This new concept has a dual aspect: **suffering must be considered as the object of a specific science devoted to it, and as the object of a general approach devoted to it** (approach is defined here as "a collection of ideas or actions intended to deal with a problem or situation").

On 2023-10-26 More clearly perhaps:

If we want the world to become an acceptable place, we need to use a concept of suffering in which this phenomenon is the object of study and action for both a specific science devoted to it and a very general "approach" devoted to it (approach in the sense of "a collection of ideas or actions intended to deal with a problem or situation").

On 2023-10-27 Still more clear perhaps:

To free the world from excessive suffering, I suggest that a new conception of suffering is needed. It must become the object of a specific science devoted to it, as well as an object to be treated systematically through a quite general(ized) approach devoted to it (approach in the sense of "a collection of ideas or actions intended to deal with a problem or situation"). The novelty is that suffering is considered not only

as a concrete subjective emotion (to be treated in various ways), but also as an abstract object of study and action. Only such a new concept can enable the creation of global institutions capable of providing the kind of large-scale collaboration we need.

On 2023-12-05, in an email about his essay on Israel-Palestine, I wrote the following to Jon, which he says “clarifies it more for me”:

It has to be seen that ethics has been an impediment for millennia because, as a whole, it is contradictory: on the one hand, it condemns suffering as bad, but on the other hand, it condones it as good. And before being able to try to make peace, we have to make clear to people what it means to approach suffering globally in a very specialized way, free from old ways (ethical or otherwise), as it has never been done until now.

2023-10-26

The [Algonomy Handbook](#) is a preparatory document that bears witness to an earlier attempt, in 2015-2016, to produce a compendium of sorts. Interestingly, the likes of Ron Anderson and Brian Tomasik were approached and expressed support for the project...

2023-11-02

A complete redesign of the book, and even the whole project, is coming up these days! I had a flash during the night! It came after thinking that a date should figure in the title of the book, like *Suffering: the State of Affairs in 2024* (instead of *Suffering: the Current State of Affairs*), because there will be periodical editions, and then it dawned on me that the management approach was much better than the knowledge approach. The title *Compendium of Knowledge about Suffering* had already been abandoned because it was too nerdy. We have to be more direct, practical, simple, etc. The book cannot be about knowledge, it simply has to be more directly practical. And also the whole project of the Center simply has to be more directly practical!

The question of knowledge is secondary!

As an entry point, speaking of management only would be sufficient because the concern for knowledge is necessarily included. The global management of suffering is a concept that amounts to the concept of a general approach to suffering, the algo-sphere! Then it is simpler to talk about it, instead of about knowledge AND management AND a quite general(ized) approach...

People are not that interested in knowledge, they want results first, and management is directly oriented toward results.

So, here is how it looks now:

~~Center for the Global Management of Suffering~~

Partners for a Global Management of Suffering (corrected on 2023-11-04)

Suffering: the State of Affairs in 2024

Part one: A new specialized discipline is required

- Defining suffering
- Factors that go toward the production of suffering

- Factors that go against the production of suffering
 - Measurement of suffering
- Part two: Contributions from various disciplines
- History etc
- Part three: Contributions from current suffering-focused initiatives
- BLTC etc.

2023-11-04

Let's rather say

Coordination Center for a Global Management of Suffering

rather than

Center for the Global Management of Suffering”

Speaking of a global is better than *the* global because there is no common conception of suffering currently. People think of suffering as an emotion that cannot be collectively 'controlled' or then as a concept that is found in various problems like health, war, famine, poverty, crime, etc but not as a concrete object that should be the specific subject of a science or a management...

Also Center does not quite evoke what is intended... a coordination Center is clearer.

Maybe we should speak of something like a coordination partnership, that might allow every interested organization (and individuals too !) to appropriate more the collective organization: OPIS, or the Algosphere Alliance, etc., could have a department called Coordination Partnership for (or Inter-cooperation for, or just Partnership for or Partners for.., or something like that) a Global Management of Suffering. This has to be expressed appropriately, however. Note that 'participants' would rather be called 'partners'.

I thought also that global management might be too large: it is not necessary to manage all suffering. But if we speak of excessive suffering it seems difficult to find an appropriate expression to refer to the very kind of project we must realize, and anyway, global management is convenient because the priority in a global management is of course to prevent excessive suffering, and also because it is a concept that amounts to the concept of a general approach to suffering, the algo-sphere...

The following is a version of the website homepage that was changed on 2023-11-07:

This initiative is proposed as a coordination center for people interested in a global management of suffering.

We define suffering as any occurrence of consciousness that is emotionally unpleasant. The management of suffering consists in exercising control over those occurrences by working to start, stop, or regulate them.

Our goal is to free our world from excessive suffering by developing a new partnership for making systematic progress towards a global management of suffering.

The Partners' first objective is to produce a reference book titled [Suffering: the State of Affairs in 2024](#). (changed on 2023-11-20 to *About Suffering: Our Evolving Action Plan*)

See [About-us/Contact](#) to get in touch and eventually participate.

We have a framework for collaboration whose entry point is our [Guide for Partners](#).

2023-11-25 A summary and a new start

The whole project now seems definitively established as far as its basic design is concerned, after many months of wandering in various directions. The latest formulation worked well for a few days and I think it can continue to do so. Here is where we are now (copied today from our home page at <https://aboutsuffering.org/>):

We are **Partners for a Global Management of Suffering**.

We are doing things in an orderly fashion, with the whole world in mind, and with one big idea at heart: to regulate the occurrences of consciousness that we deem too unpleasant.

The first thing we are doing is to ensure that our idea gets up and running, thanks to a partnership group like ours. We need to do this to provide a supporting structure to our actions.

The second thing we are doing is to update a book titled *About Suffering: Our Evolving Action Plan*. We have to produce such a book to identify and coordinate what we do together.

Everything else we do flows from these two actions.

A big difference compared with previous iterations of our project is that we no longer need to seek out people or solicit their participation: we simply do our work, talk about it, and let new partners join us on their own, as they see fit. What's more, we may work as we can, when we can, without undue haste: there is no need to rush or stress, despite the emergency cries of suffering, because on the large scale of the required revolution, things happen slowly and hardly depend on any single one of our actions. (this paragraph has been copied in [Guide for Partners](#))

This latest phase of clarification began on 2023-10-25 and continued until now, as seen above on this page. Here is a summary:

Our book and initiative cannot be about knowledge*, as it was first intended. We need to be more direct, practical, and simple. So let us speak about "a global management of suffering". This expression has a meaning that includes a concern for knowledge and also a concern for a highly general approach** to suffering, such as that proposed in the [algo-sphere](#). Thus, "a global management of suffering" is a concept that includes three important aspects: a general approach AND a management AND a body of knowledge.

* People aren't as interested in knowledge as in results, and management is directly results-oriented.

** Approach may be defined here as "a collection of ideas or actions intended to deal with a problem or situation".

We say that our management is a global rather than the global management of suffering because there is no common conception of suffering. In general, people think that suffering is a personal emotion that cannot be collectively "controlled", that it is a side-effect of problems that need to be addressed first, such as disease, war, famine, poverty, crime, etc. We think, on the contrary, that it is a concrete object that should be the specific subject of a specialized science and a specialized management. Furthermore, the global management of suffering might be too large: we don't need to manage all suffering because our priority is to prevent excessive suffering, and speaking of a global management allows us to address that kind of suffering first and foremost.

Our goal is to free our world from excessive suffering by developing a new partnership for making systematic progress towards a global management of suffering. That concept of "a global management of suffering" seems the only one that is adequate for creating global institutions that provide the kind of large-scale collaboration we need.

2023-12-04

There is a book that seems in line with how we want to act:

[*Cascades: How to Create a Movement that Drives Transformational Change*](#)

The official description of the book says:

If you could make a change—any change you wanted—what would it be? Would it be something in your organization or your industry? Maybe something in your community or throughout society as a whole? If you had a magic wand that would allow you to instantly change anything you wanted, what would that change look like? In *Cascades*, one of today's top innovation experts delivers a guide for driving transformation change based on the new science of networks and research into dozens of people and organizations that have created truly historic impact. This book will show that to truly change the world or even just your little corner of it, you don't need a charismatic leader or a catchy slogan. What you need are small groups, loosely connected, but united by a common purpose.

Perhaps most of all, *Cascades* points to a new role for leaders, who can no longer rule by fiat or merely plan and direct action, but must inspire and empower belief. "Power no longer sits at the top of hierarchies," he writes, "but emanates from the center of networks."

The Table of Contents has the following:

PART TWO HOW CHANGE MOVEMENTS SUCCEED—AND FAIL

CHAPTER 4: Identifying a Keystone Change

CHAPTER 5: Making A Plan

CHAPTER 6: Networking the Movement

CHAPTER 7: Indoctrinating a Genome of Values

CHAPTER 8: Building Platforms for Participation, Mobilization, and Connection

CHAPTER 9: Surviving Victory

AFTERWORD: Leading Toward Common Ground

I took a few notes from

https://digitaltonto.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Cascades_Excerpt-Preface-Intro.pdf:

- [Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies - Wikipedia](#) is an example of the Cascades method.
- It takes small groups, loosely connected, and united by a common purpose. A team of teams
- It takes years or even decades to start, then it comes to a critical mass and it explodes, or more precisely, it 'percolates'.
- Power no longer sits at the top of hierarchies but emanates from the center of networks.
- Let us seek to widen our appeal, we need everybody more than zealots. Let us plan to win converts in the populace and the institutions.

2023-12-31

From

<https://www.facebook.com/vlastimil.vohanka/posts/pfbid0k7s8VqA3tGFzEw5xfPpMYXxdgGiP8MoNn36N3iw1ehUxLxFKBqiohrmNxAYghQMDI>:

[Vlastimil Vohánka](#)

August 6, 2020

On larger-scale inefficacy of individual efforts of ordinary people, and on the frustrating complexity of the world

To consider, however trivial it is: You want ordinary people to help you solve the big problems (bad and even dangerous politics, extreme poverty, factory farming, human extinction, domestic violence, ir/religion, fundamentalism, whatever)? Many ordinary people know these problems are very important. They're not callous psychopaths. But they know these problems are very complex, or that the relevant evidence on what to do is conflicted, or that they are not smart enough to figure out. And they know, or at least suspect, that they themselves can't influence much; the world is too big and insensitive to their individual efforts. So they won't help you. Instead, they will focus on helping themselves and their families; that's where they can make a difference quite easily. (In fact, it may well be that the more thoughtful and the less narcissistic people are, the less activist and engaged they are.

<youtu.be/Bj-vM1C1C5Y?t=1667>, <journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0146167220919212>,

<https://www.facebook.com/vlastimil.vohanka/posts/10227294281888749>,

<https://twitter.com/robkhenderson/status/1445874216432070661>) So, some exacerbate the big problems collectively (maybe by consuming ruthlessly; tragedy of the commons again), others mitigate them (maybe by raising virtuous kids).

The upshot: These ordinary people would help you more with the (real) problems you find so important if you could convey to them a clear and convincing strategy how their individual effort would really make a difference.

A hypothesis: You don't know of any such strategy. You wish you had it. But you don't have it. And those people know that, too. (Yes, this is autobiographical. 'You' includes me; but it includes you as well.)

See my reply (3 years ago) to that post and the ensuing discussion with Vlastimil in [Facebook exchanges starting on 2020-08-15](#), a part of [Correspondence - Action-Teams — Research & Development](#)

(added on 2024-01-03) Today, it seems possible that, in the weeks or months to come, my comprehensive approach to suffering since 1976 - that is, my life's work as an independent researcher - will prove ineffective, but then at least this work will have been attempted, and perhaps it will show that other approaches must be found.