



Education +
Literacy
Award Ceremony

Prof. Dr. Melanie Platz

#ossym22

Children's Questions

Challenge

Envelope
and
letter
paper

Dear Experts at
the Open
Search
Symposium,

Letter from
a child

Challenge: Reply to the letter
in a child-friendly way.



Lisa Both
Primary School Teacher Student



Gina Maria Faßbender
Primary School Teacher Student



Nadja Hipskind
Primary School Teacher Student

Dear Experts at the Open Search Symposium,

My name is Amy and my dad can ask each question to Google, like "how to draw an elephant" or "recipe for chocolate cake".

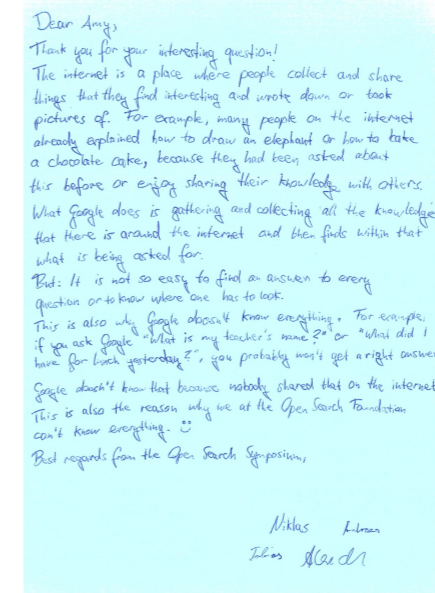
Why does Google know everything?

Do you at the Open Search Foundation also know everything?

Best regards,

Amy

Niklas, Andreas, Tobias, Alexander



Dear Amy,

Thank you for your interesting question!

The internet is a place where people collect and share things that they find interesting and wrote down or took pictures of. For example, many people on the internet already explained how to draw an elephant or how to bake a chocolate cake, because they had been asked about this before or enjoy sharing their knowledge with others. What Google does is gathering and collecting all the knowledge that there is around the internet and then finds within that what is being asked for.

But: It is not so easy to find an answer to every question or to know where one has to look.

This is also why Google doesn't know everything. For example, if you ask Google „What is my teacher's name?“ or „What did I have for lunch yesterday?“, you probably won't get a right answer.

Google doesn't know that because nobody shared that on the internet.

This is also the reason why we at the Open Search Foundation can't know everything. 😊

Best regards from the Open Search Symposium,

Niklas, Andreas, Tobias, Alexander

TOP

- The answer is written in an appreciative way and is clearly understandable. In addition, the answer is well structured, preceded by a general explanation.
- Very child-friendly, interesting, descriptive and understandable answer, examples of the child were taken up, no technical terms or too complicated formulations, reference to the child's world, clearly structured, respectful handling of the child's question, positive attitude to questions.
- Emphasises that Google does not know everything and that Google can find an answer to questions such as "What is my teacher's name?" but not the right answer.

TIP

- Rephrase the sentence " What Google does is gathering and collecting all the knowledge that there is around the internet and then finds within that what is being asked for. " or split it into two sentences, as its length makes it somewhat difficult to understand.
- What is missing from the answer is that the fact that many people are contributing can lead to incorrect information being found on the internet.
- Reference to sources for further reading and suggestions for further reading or further engagement with the topic should be mentioned (increase interactivity, entertaining information).
- Amy's question suggests that she assumes that there is one person behind Google and the statement "Google collects and finds knowledge" could support this misconception. One would have to mention somewhere that Google is a non-human algorithm (created by humans).
- The difference between "knowledge" and "finding on Google" should be explained: not everything you find on Google turns directly into knowledge.

Why is this answer the best?



Because it contains the most vivid and understandable explanations that relate to the child's life and have been picked up from the question. In addition, the child is addressed directly and motivated to ask questions. Furthermore, the answer is the most structured and the reading flow is ensured.

Dear Experts at the Open Search Symposium,

My name is Ben and I have a question: What is Google?
I already asked my dad, and he said Google is the place where
daddies ask questions and that it is on his phone.
But what is it? And what is the Open Search Foundation?

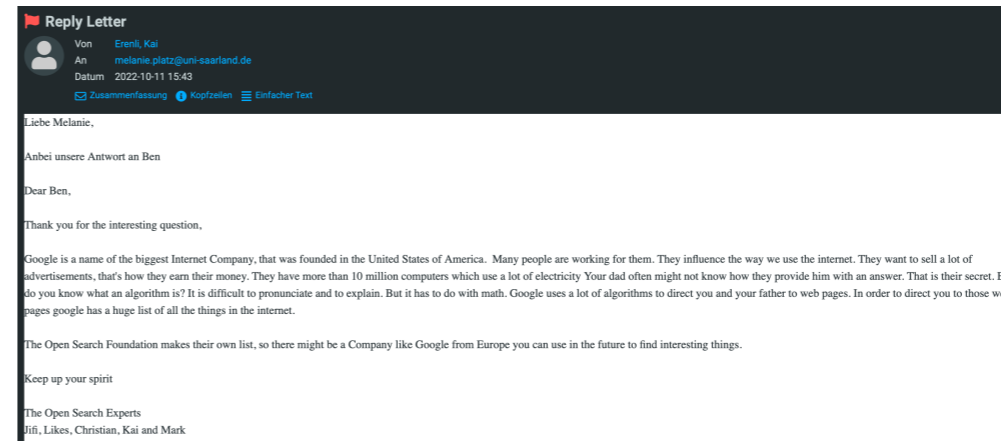
Best regards,

Ben

Jifi, Likes, Christian, Kai & Mark

Dear Ben,

Thank you for the interesting question,



Google is a name of the biggest Internet Company, that was founded in the United States of America. Many people are working for them. They influence the way we use the internet. They want to sell a lot of advertisements, that's how they earn their money. They have more than 10 million computers which use a lot of electricity Your dad often might not know how they provide him with an answer. That is their secret. Ben, do you know what an algorithm is? It is difficult to pronounce and to explain. But it has to do with math. Google uses a lot of algorithms to direct you and your father to web pages. In order to direct you to those web pages google has a huge list of all the things in the internet.

The Open Search Foundation makes their own list, so there might be a Company like Google from Europe you can use in the future to find interesting things.

Keep up your spirit

The Open Search Experts

Jifi, Likes, Christian, Kai and Mark

TOP

- The answer is appreciatively worded and probably very appealing to Ben.
- Appreciation and respectful handling of the child issue, interesting information encourages further reading.
- Ben is addressed directly in the text and is encouraged to continue to be so enthusiastic.
- Google is seen critically (advertising, power consumption, data) and the way it works is hinted at (algorithms), which makes people curious to learn more about it.

TIP

- The answer takes up new topics (use of the Internet, number of computers, algorithms) at various points without answering them clearly, which leaves some further questions unanswered.
- Use of technical terms: better explanation of the term algorithm
- clarification that Google does not only answer questions from fathers
- more precise explanation of how Google works, give examples,
- more precise description of what the Open Search Foundation is,
- insert further links and possibilities for interaction,
- improvement of the reading flow: more understandable, simpler language, increase of clarity
- Mention why the Open Search Foundation project is better than Google (if it has advantages), mentioning that it comes from Europe is not enough.

Why is this answer the best?



Because it is written in a very appealing way for a child. To answer the question, all the important things are addressed and some aspects are also seen critically. In this way, the child's question is answered and at the same time curiosity is aroused about further subject areas.

Dear Experts at the Open Search Symposium,

My name is Daniel and my parents do not allow me to go to the internet alone or to use Google, because they say it is not safe and that there are websites that are not safe.

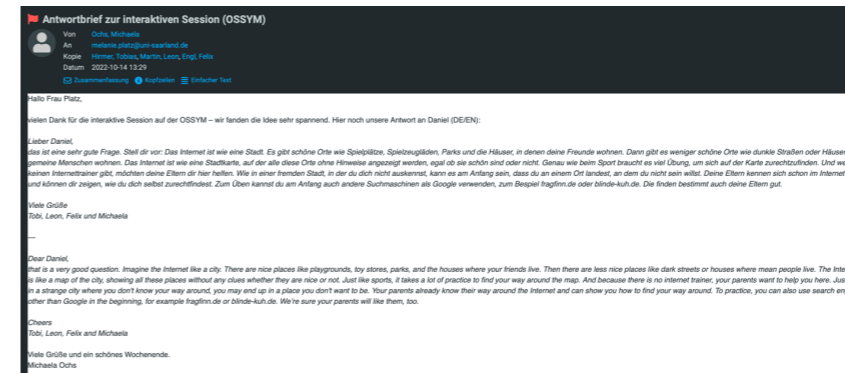
What can I do?

Do you at the Open Search Foundation know which website is safe and which is not?

Best regards,

Daniel

Tobi, Leon, Felix & Michaela



Dear Daniel,

that is a very good question. Imagine the Internet like a city. There are nice places like playgrounds, toy stores, parks, and the houses where your friends live. Then there are less nice places like dark streets or houses where mean people live. The Internet is like a map of the city, showing all these places without any clues whether they are nice or not. Just like sports, it takes a lot of practice to find your way around the map. And because there is no internet trainer, your parents want to help you here. Just like in a strange city where you don't know your way around, you may end up in a place you don't want to be. Your parents already know their way around the Internet and can show you how to find your way around. To practice, you can also use search engines other than Google in the beginning, for example fragfinn.de or blinde-kuh.de. We're sure your parents will like them, too.

Cheers

Tobi, Leon, Felix and Michaela

TOP

- The answer is formulated in an appreciative way and is very easy to understand.
- Child-friendly and illustrative example: the comparison with the city is well done
- Alternatives at the end of the answer: references to safe search engines for children

TIP

- With regard to the alternatives, it would be interesting why they are better and why Daniel's parents have less to worry about.
- Address the dangers of the internet more in order to make parents' prohibition understandable. There are e.g. learning modules at the Internet-ABC and the possibility to take the internet licence
- Only make correct statements ("your parents already know their way around the internet" → Do parents really know their way around the internet so that they can judge which site is safe and which is not and train their child? Questionable.)
- more could be said about possibilities to make the internet safer for children
- Increase the professional information
- answer in a more structured way (sudden comparison with sport creates a break in the image of the internet as a city; internet is not equal to Google; better: the Internet is like a city and Google is like a city map)
- show more empathy, greater appreciation of the question

Why is this answer the best?



Because it offers a good comparison with the "cityscape" and is thus clearly understandable and comprehensible.

However, I would supplement this answer with a short explanation of why the alternatives are better.



Dear Daniel,
 many thanks for your question!
 Imagine that you will do a journey into a beautiful forest with your parents. ~~But~~ Suddenly, the weather turns and it gets dark. ~~and you lose track of your parents!~~ Do you know how to get home? Do you know how to behave or who you can ask for help? The internet is for sure a beautiful place, but there are dark places in it where you need the help of your parents. They can help you and teach you the tools how to behave, they can guide you. Maybe you can explore the internet together with them?
 There are ~~some~~ ^{some} internet pages, that are safe for children and where you can learn ^{the} right behaviour. In Germany we have „fragfinn.de“, „blind Kuh.de“ or „helleskoepfchen.de“ where you can find information that is →

explicitly made for children. ~~It~~ These are safe ~~doors~~ ^{doors} into the internet. Over time you will learn how to ~~explore~~ ^{use} the internet without fear of getting lost. And the best part: probably you can soon teach your parents some important tricks as well!

Yours
 Open Search Foundation



Dear Daniel,

Many thanks for your question!

Imagine that you do a journey into a beautiful forest with your parents. Suddenly the weather turns and it gets dark. You loose your paernts! Do you know how to get home? Do you know how to behave or who you can ask for help? The internet is for sure a beautiful place, but there are dark places in it where you need the help of your parents. They can help you and and teach you the tools how to behave, they can guide you. Maybe you can explore together with them? There are some internet pages, that are safe for children and where your can learn the right behaviour. In Germany we have „fragfinn.de“, „blind Kuh.de“ or „helleskoepfchen.de“ where you can find information that is made for children. Those are safe doors into the internet. Over time you will learn how to use the internet without fear of getting lost. And the best part: probably you can soon teach your parents some cool tricks as well!

Yours

Open Search Foundation

TOP

- appreciation of the child's issue
- The alternatives are briefly explained and the competent handling is held out as "learnable".
- Encouragement to engage with the Internet
- Indication that parents can also still learn a lot
- motivating concluding sentence

TIP

- Emphasise the connection between the walk in the forest and the dark places on the internet more precisely.
- the comparison with the darkness might be less successful than the comparison with the city, because in the comparison with the city it became clear that "learning" and orientation will be possible.
- There are also other guidance options on the internet than parents are aware of
- More motivating and usable answer than "with time you will learn...".
- Partly complicated sentence structure

Dear Experts at the Open Search Symposium,

My name is Ella and I have a question.

You say on your homepage, that the internet was meant to be free.

Why is it not free?

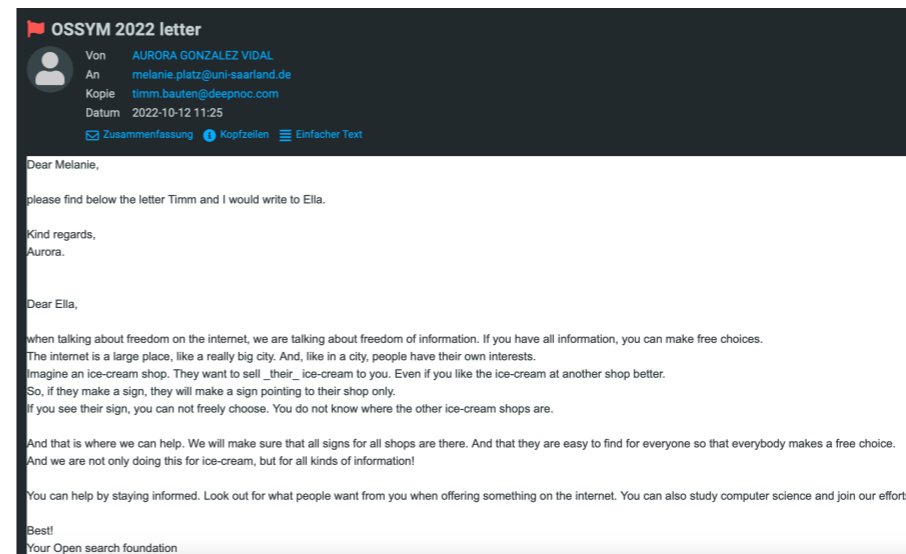
And how do you plan to free it?

Can I help?

Best regards,

Ella

Timm & Aurora



Dear Ella,

when talking about freedom on the internet, we are talking about freedom of information. If you have all information, you can make free choices.

The internet is a large place, like a really big city. And, like in a city, people have their own interests.

Imagine an ice-cream shop. They want to sell their ice-cream to you. Even if you like the ice-cream at another shop better.

So, if they make a sign, they will make a sign pointing to their shop only.

If you see their sign, you can not freely choose. You do not know where the other ice-cream shops are.

And that is where we can help. We will make sure that all signs for all shops are there. And that they are easy to find for everyone so that everybody makes a free choice.

And we are not only doing this for ice-cream, but for all kinds of information!

You can help by staying informed. Look out for what people want from you when offering something on the internet.

You can also study computer science and join our efforts.

Best!

Your Open search foundation (Timm & Aurora)

TOP

- Very child-friendly, descriptive and understandable answer, no technical terms used
- reference to the child's living world: the comparison with the ice-cream shop is quite successful, it can be well understood by children

TIP

- Better answer to the question, how Ella can help (practical implementation)
- In terms of how Ella can help, the addition of what it helps to stay aware is missing. The ice cream shop (owner) comparison could have been continued here. For example, by showing that ice cream s do not ask for your name or place of residence when you buy an ice cream, or that different ice cream parlours offer differently priced ice cream.
- Appreciation of the question
- Mention possibilities for independent search
- "If you have all information, you can make free choices." might be too abstract for children to understand

Thank you
for your attention and
for your active participation!



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<https://opensearchfoundation.org/en/working-group-educationliteracy/>

