

# On the Sanity of the Engines of Reason

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There are presently many ways to interpret the term knowledge federation (KF), but herein emphasis is placed on two levels of granularity. In one, topic similarity is the basis upon which KF occurs successfully. But at a higher level, organised media resource collection constitutes KF. A possible bridge is motivations. It is suggested that the motive to construct an essay or a mathematical proof drives structuring of the ensuing actions. The difference between mere list creation and a coherent construction is then about how accountable the reasoning within and through that construct has to be. That is, an essay is something more than a list of facts, and the 'something more' is typically a thread of reasoning or a narrative played out within the text. The forthcoming rise of the assistive automated reasoner (AAR) in our social and media contexts is then considered, with the AAR operating primarily at the level of topic comparison. The work of several research groups around the world is highlighted to provide some assessment of how assistive and how automated an AAR might soon be. The view that the 'reasoning' of an effective AAR might not conform to classical conventions is also presented. Some discussion of the benefits and the profound ethical implications of the deployment of AARs within society is then provided.