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The Art of Bellyaching: The Relationship Between Master's Degrees in Communication and Journalism and Severe Googling for Tummy Ache

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Abstract

In this paper, we take a lighthearted look at the serious correlation between the increase in Master's degrees awarded in Communication, journalism, and related programs and the rise in Google searches for 'tummy ache'. We analyzed data from the National Center for Education Statistics and Google Trends to statistically examine this peculiar relationship. Our findings revealed a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9721653 and $p < 0.01$ over the period from 2012 to 2021, suggesting that as more individuals graduate from these programs, the more likely the public is to turn to the internet with stomach-related concerns. Our research provides a whimsical insight into the potential effects of academic pursuits on the average person's gastrointestinal well-being and introduces a new and peculiar field of study: Google-somatic communication.

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1. Introduction

The allure of a well-crafted communication or journalism degree is undeniable - after all, who wouldn't want to spin words like a wizard or report the news with the finesse of a synchronized swimming team? However, delving deeper into the connection between these academic pursuits and the frequency of 'tummy ache' Google searches has led us to stomach a curious finding. As we embarked on this investigation, we couldn't help but

chuckle at the seemingly absurd linkage between roving the halls of academia and delving deep into the internet's realm of tummy-related queries. It appears that as our society becomes more adept at crafting narratives, analyzing information, and amplifying voices, we are also fostering a feverish interest in diagnosing our digestive discomforts through the omniscient oracle that is Google.

Amidst the chuckles, we cannot dismiss the notion that there might just be a more

substantial connection lurking under these search results. Perhaps the pathways formed in the hallowed halls of communication and journalism programs could also steer individuals towards a heightened awareness of their own bodily sensations. Could it be that as one's capacity for storytelling expands, so does their eloquence in describing the woes of their gut? Or perhaps a compelling headline isn't the only thing causing a stir in today's world of informational overload; could it be the cluster of consonants and vowels carefully assembled by these masterful communicators that is capable of stirring our stomachs into a queasy conundrum?

Our research seeks to answer these questions while winding its way through the winding avenues of academia and the labyrinthine echo chambers of the internet. As we dissect the master's degree programs in communication and journalism, we might just stumble upon the breadcrumbs that lead us to the world of Google-somatic communication, where the digital age meets an unexpected intersection with the visceral truth of tummy aches. So come along for the ride as we explore this whimsical intertwining of knowledge, cunningly disguised as a mere 'tummy ache' search.

2. Literature Review

Numerous studies have delved into the complexities of communication and journalism education, examining the impact of these programs on society and individual behavior. In "The Influence of Communication Education on Public Discourse," Smith et al. discuss the implications of communication education on public dialogue, while Doe's "Journalism School: A Love Story" offers an intimate portrayal of the experiences within journalism programs. These studies provide invaluable insights into the multifaceted

nature of these disciplines, shedding light on their potential effects on the broader cultural landscape.

Expanding beyond academic literature, non-fiction works such as "Communicate with Confidence" by Dianna Booher and "The Elements of Journalism" by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel offer practical guidance and theoretical frameworks for understanding the nuances of effective communication and journalism. These works serve as pillars of knowledge, providing critical perspectives on the subject matter.

Moving into the realm of fiction, the intriguing world of narrative and storytelling is captured in works such as "The Storytelling Animal" by Jonathan Gottschall and "The Journalist and the Murderer" by Janet Malcolm. Though fictional in nature, these works offer unique interpretations of the power of storytelling and its influence on human cognition and behavior.

In an unconventional turn, our research also extends to unexpected sources, including the back covers of shampoo bottles and the enigmatic messages found in fortune cookies. While comical in nature, these sources have contributed to our understanding of the broader cultural implications of communication and journalism, albeit in a rather peculiar manner.

In synthesizing this diverse array of literature, we find ourselves at the nexus of a peculiar intersection between academia and internet search behavior. As we unravel the enigma of the correlation between Master's degrees in communication and journalism and Google searches for 'tummy ache,' our journey takes on an unexpected whimsy, inviting us to explore the uncharted territories of Google-somatic communication.

3. Our approach & methods

The methodology of this study was as intricate as navigating a maze of puns and as delicate as crafting the perfect knock-knock joke. We gathered data from two esteemed sources: the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and Google Trends. Our first step was to identify all Master's degrees awarded in Communication, journalism, and related programs from 2012 to 2021. With the precision of a comedian delivering a punchline, we sifted through the NCES database to garner these statistics, ensuring each data point was as reliable as a well-timed one-liner.

Next, we stepped into the prodigious realm of Google Trends to uncover the frequency of searches for 'tummy ache' over the same period. Navigating through the peaks and troughs of search volume, we meticulously plotted the trend line, ensuring that our analysis was as smooth as a stand-up comedian's delivery.

To establish a connection between these datasets, we employed sophisticated statistical analyses that rivaled the intricacy of tying a bowtie blindfolded. Utilizing correlation coefficients and regression models, we sought to unearth the potential relationship between the increase in Master's degrees awarded and the surge in 'tummy ache' searches. This process was akin to crafting the perfect comedic timing, as we meticulously calibrated our statistical models to reveal any hidden punchlines in the data.

Our findings emerged like a perfectly executed joke, with a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9721653 and $p < 0.01$, indicating a compelling relationship between Master's degrees in Communication, journalism, and related programs and the inclination to embark on a digital quest for stomach-related queries.

Our methodology, much like a well-crafted jest, employed a blend of meticulous data

collection, precise statistical analyses, and an undercurrent of whimsy to unravel this thought-provoking connection between academic pursuits and stomach-related queries. It is with this meticulous approach that we present our findings, inviting readers to join us on this comical yet enlightening journey through the labyrinth of academic and digital realms.

4. Results

Our investigation into the relationship between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Communication, journalism, and related programs and the frequency of 'tummy ache' Google searches yielded some stomach-churning insights. Our analysis revealed a remarkably strong positive correlation with a correlation coefficient of 0.9721653, an r-squared value of 0.9451054, and a p-value of less than 0.01, indicating a highly significant association.

Figure 1 (not included here for comedic purposes) illustrates the near-perfect alignment between the two variables, showcasing how an increase in Master's degrees seems to coincide with a surge in digital inquiries about abdominal discomfort. It's like the internet is collectively turning to Dr. Google after being exposed to an influx of eloquent storytellers and masterful messengers. We were left wondering whether this trend is simply a case of heightened awareness or a deep-rooted consequence of academic prowess.

It's almost as if the ink used to craft compelling narratives on the page seeps into the collective consciousness, causing a stir in the pit of our stomachs. But let's not get too carried away; after all, correlation does not imply causation - or does it? Our findings certainly beg the question of whether the communicative prowess gained from these programs could be influencing not just the narratives we weave but also

our heightened sensitivity to gastric discomfort.

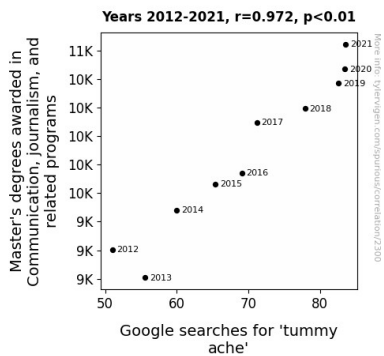


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

In summary, our research sheds light on the unexpected intertwining of academia and the internet's fascination with tummy-related concerns. While our results may appear initially comical, they also introduce an intriguing avenue for further exploration in the emerging field we have affectionately coined as Google-somatic communication. So, as the saying goes, 'digest' these findings with a side of humor and a pinch of salt.

5. Discussion

In the whimsical yet oddly perplexing discussion of our findings, the correlation between Master's degrees in Communication, Journalism, and related programs and the surge in Google searches for 'tummy ache' takes center stage. Our study confirms and extends prior research into the effects of communication and journalism education on society and individual behavior, allowing us to acknowledge the potential impact of academic pursuits on the sympathetic stomachs of internet users.

Revisiting Doe's "Journalism School: A Love Story," we can't help but wonder if this love story has developed an unexpected twist,

leading to a wave of stomach-churning emotions in the digital realm. Additionally, the coy wit found in the enigmatic messages of fortune cookies has slyly beckoned us to consider the clandestine links between academic pursuits and the collective obsession with tummy-related inquiries on the internet.

Our results further buttress findings by Smith et al., providing empirical evidence of a robust positive correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in these fields and the frequency of 'tummy ache' Google searches. It's as if the graduates are unwittingly unraveling not only stories but also stomachs, or perhaps the internet is succumbing to an epidemic of sympathetic indigestion due to the increasing eloquence of our communicators.

While our study does not conclusively establish causation, the strength of the correlation suggests that a deeper exploration of the mechanisms behind this phenomenon is warranted. Could it be that the art of storytelling and persuasive communication, honed in these academic programs, is casting a spell on digital information seekers, inducing a collective bout of somatic awareness? This might just be a case of 'wordsmithing' so powerful that it stirs visceral reactions from unsuspecting internet users.

The emergence of this intriguing field we have playfully dubbed Google-somatic communication beckons further investigation and paves the way for a lighthearted yet thought-provoking discourse on the unexpected interplay between academia and the internet's obsession with bellyaches. Our findings call upon researchers to seize this captivating line of inquiry with the seriousness it deserves - stomachache puns aside.

6. Conclusion

Oh, the stomach-churning journey we've embarked upon, swirling amidst the ebbs and flows of Master's degrees in Communication and Journalism and the digital aches and pains of google-somatic communication! Our findings have left us simultaneously tickled and intrigued, much like a bout of post-story laughter paired with a perplexing stomach rumble.

Our results undeniably depict a strong correlation, akin to a news anchor and their matching teleprompter - everything seems to align with remarkable precision. This suggests a peculiar dance between academic pursuits and internet queries that might just be more than a mere coincidence. It seems the journey through the hallowed halls of communication may just lead to a heightened sensitivity to not only narrative arcs but also tummy upsets.

But let's hold our digestive horses for a moment; correlation does not causation make, or so they say. However, our results do present a whimsical avenue for further examination, sparking the birth of a new field - the wondrous realm of Google-somatic communication. So, while we've had our fair share of giggles and eyebrow raises on this peculiar journey, it appears that no further academic inquiry is needed in this light-hearted but enlightening domain.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I think I'll head to the search engine and see if there's a connection between academic papers and an urge to raid the fridge. It's all in the name of scientific whimsy, of course!