ALGO-LITERACY FOR ALL
in 10 points

Since algorithms, and in particular, those of search engines and social media, influence our information, our consumption, our relationships, and politics, citizens should know how they work and what their effects are.

This document presents synthetically the key points developed in Algo-literacy, a field part of Media and Information Literacy, essential to understand our media and our cultural universe and to try to regain control over our digital lives.
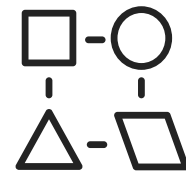
1 Algorithms are also created by humans

They are not elusive and mysterious forces coming out of nowhere
Even if some escape their creator, I try to understand their logic to master their impact

2 Not all algorithms are the same

On the information side, there are sorting, recommendation and prediction algorithms
Knowing them is part of my culture

3 We are all under algorithmic influence!

On social media, for example, recommendation algorithms highlight content that guides our information fare
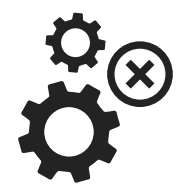I multiply my sources and also consult the radio, the written media, TV...

4 Not everything that is recommended is true

The first search results or suggested content are not always the most relevant
I don't stop at the first results, I diversify my search locations. Curiosity is the worst enemy of algorithms

5 Algorithms and fake news sometimes form dangerous relationships

By putting forward fakes and conspiracies that make the buzz, for example!
I warn the members of my community

6 Infowar can destabilize democracies

Online propaganda by foreign powers taking advantage of the properties of algorithms is increasingly common
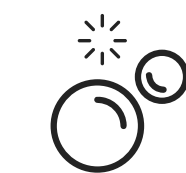A hot news topic? I'm wary of news that upset me

7 Algorithms are very smart at making profits

Their first objective is to capture our attention and make us stay online as long as possible
I only click on suggestions that really interest me

8 A bubble is comfortable. But it lacks air

Recommendation algorithms tend to narrow our horizons by offering us content that matches our tastes and opinions
I consult various sources of opinion and cultivate my critical thinking skills

9 Algorithms are also valuable for journalists!

Used properly, they are interesting tools for testing the temperature of public opinion, spotting trends and reporting about "online life"
Technology can be useful. I don't demonize algorithms!

10 It's possible to act rather than cope

States, civil society and individual citizens can reduce the influence of algorithms on their information. And use them to fight against disinformation
Let's take action!