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The usefulness of useless knowledge book pdf

The history of Science and Knowledge Buy is a forty-year-old tightening of research funding means that resources are increasingly focused on applied or practical results, with the aim of creating products of immediate value. In such a scenario, it makes sense to focus on the most identifiable and urgent issues, doesn't it? In fact, it's not. In his classic essay The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge, Abraham Flexner, founding director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton and the man who helped bring Albert Einstein to the United States, describes the great paradox of scientific research. Finding answers to deep questions, motivated solely by curiosity and without concern for applications, often leads not only to the greatest scientific discoveries, but also to the most revolutionary technological breakthroughs. In short, there is no quantum mechanics, no computer chips. This short book includes a flexner of a timeless 1939 essay alongside a new essay companion by Robbert Dijkgraaf, the institute's current director, in which he reveals that Flexner's defense of the cost of unhindered pursuit of useless knowledge may be even more relevant today than it was in the early twentieth century. Dijkgraaf describes how fundamental research led to major transformations in the last century and explains why this is a necessary precondition for innovation and a first step in social and cultural change. It makes the case that society can achieve a deeper understanding and practical progress today and tomorrow only to truly evaluate and substantially fund the curiosity-driven pursuit of useless knowledge in both the science and humanities. Flexner's essay should be reread not only by government officials and business leaders, but also by academics and voters. Gillian Ett, Financial Times Small and extremely powerful book. -Karen Shook, Times Higher Education (Flexner's Essay) 1939 . . . advocates an unimpeded query, which, paradoxically and unexpectedly, often leads to extraordinary usefulness. . . Dijkgraaf . . . Flexner's personal story weaves along with compelling new examples that support Flexner's thesis. . . . It perfectly describes Flexner's view of a long and often unpredictable research path. -Craig Tovey, Science There is eternal relevance about Flexner's words in this essay written 78 years ago. -Van Lixin, Shanghai Daily R'eaders will discover a timeless essay Abraham Flexner wrote in 1939 on the usefulness of useles knowledge and companion essays . . . Robbert Dijkgraaf, which shows that Flexner's vision is perhaps more relevant today . . . In recent decades, STEM scholarships and education funding have reached a critical stage that Flexner envisioned. «Dijkgraaf» that scientists and scientists have a role to play educating the public about the value of useless knowledge. - Gene Worsley, NSTA recommends the usefulness of useles knowledge is a book that should be in the library of all those who conduct any way of investigation, whether scientific or humanistic, amateur or professional. Also, it should not be read only once, but turned to over and over again for inspiration, for motivation, and even for comfort. For in a world so relentlessly focused on tangible achievements and commercialization, the reminder that there were and remain those who knew and still understand the importance of unbridled curiosity to the health of the human mind and spirit is invaluable. -John E. Riutta, well-read naturalist Live, powerful and surprisingly timely. -Donald L. Drakeman, public discourse Why read Flexner's essay now? The answer is obvious to all those associated with a modern university over the past few decades. . . It is important to recall that the basics of useful knowledge originate, as Flexner eloquently and powerfully argues, in the study of useles knowledge. -Alan Rauch, Canadian Association of Lecturers University Bulletin is remarkably well written, Flexner's manifesto is interesting and thought-provoking in quite different ways. - Sigo Ongai de Felipe, Science and Education Flexner and Dijkgraaf argue that fundamental research, driven by curiosity, freedom and imagination, is a proven and necessary seed for revolutionary technologies that fuel the economy, transform society and provide solutions to world problems. A thoughtful call for long-term thinking at a time full of short-term distractions. -Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman of Alphabet Inc. These two eloquent essays are timely and timeless treasures that remind us why and how the pursuit of knowledge for the sake of itself has changed humanity and human affairs. The usefulness of useles Knowledge is a gift to all who are connected to the world of tomorrow. -Sean B. Carroll, author of Serengeti Rules and Brave Genius In an essay written more than seventy years apart, the founder and current director of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies show how human progress depends - quite unexpectedly - on unlimited scholarships carried by talented, obsessively curious people. The lag in time from their discoveries to practical use will be long, and the way is unpredictable. But here is the bottom line: strangely enough, the future of mankind is likely to depend on the much increased public support for fundamental, seemingly impractical impractical research. -Bruce Alberts, University of California, San Francisco, and former editor-in-chief of the journal Science Usefulness of Useless Knowledge is excellent. Deikgraaf's essay is a remarkable work that essay in historical context, revealing the impact of his vision on the twentieth century and re-evaluating it in the light of the twenty-first. -Carlo Rovelli, author of seven brief lessons in physics Brilliant essays Flexner is as valuable today as when it was first published. And the eloquent accompanying essay of Deikgraaf, which remarkably links the situation faced by proponents of fundamental scientific research in the past and present, is a pleasure to read. The usefulness of useles knowledge will be very useful in intense global debate on this vital topic. - Neil Turok, Director and Niels Bohr Chair, Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics Usefulness of Useless Knowledge is a book that should be in the library of all those who conduct any investigations, whether scientific or humanistic, amateur or professional. Also, it should not be read only once, but turned to over and over again for inspiration, for motivation, and even for comfort. For in a world so relentlessly focused on tangible achievements and commercialization, the reminder that there were and remain those who knew and still understand the importance of unbridled curiosity to the health of the human mind and spirit is invaluable. ---John E. Riutta, well-read naturalist (Flexner's Essay) 1939 . . . advocates an unimpeded query, which, paradoxically and unexpectedly, often leads to extraordinary usefulness. . . Dijkgraaf . . . 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Robbert Deikgraaf, a mathematical physicist specializing in string theory, is director and professor of Leon Levy at the Institute for Advanced Studies. A distinguished public policy adviser and passionate advocate for science and the arts, he is also co-chair of the Inter-Academy Council, a global alliance of scientific academies and former president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Sciences. The usefulness of useles knowledge book pdf. book the usefulness of useless knowledge

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