AI and Culture

Many people will look at this section and think “AI and culture? How does AI have anything to do with culture?” Well the truth of the matter is that artificial intelligence has already become a large part of our daily lives. Whenever a credit card is swiped, an intelligent program makes sure that money gets to where it needs to go. Whenever a traffic light turns green, an artificial intelligence saw that there was traffic there. The general population see’s artificial intelligence as these amazingly sophisticated machines who go on rampages or accidently cause World War III but in the end they’re simply man’s answer to doing benign jobs that no one wants to do anymore.

This isn’t a current trend in the history of artificial intelligence. Creating programs that help human’s in their everyday jobs has been common practice since 1988. (Patil, 1988). In 1988 scientists did research concerning artificial intelligence in medical diagnosis and mad some key ideas that would go on to shape the future of artificial intelligence. The idea was, if doctors didn’t need to diagnose a patient and instead would only have to be involved with treatment. What if there was an intelligent program that could take in all of the patient’s symptoms and create a reasonable hypothesis of that patient’s ailment.

Patil and Schwartz’s report eventually conclude that such a program would take years to create but also lay down the foundation for solving some key issues such as overlapping conditions and the probability of rarer disorders. Needless to say some head way has been made into this field a little over 20 years later.

Meet Isabel. Isabel is labeled as a “diagnostic checklist” program. Doctors input information from tests and observations already made and Isabel generates a list of likely disorders the patient might have. This allows doctors to make a more informed choice as well as check possible, lesser known diseases. The program, while not perfect, is the child of the idea Patil and Schwartz presented nearly 20 years ago. While most people may never see or use this program its cultural significance is simply that doctors are beginning to use artificial intelligence in conjunction with their own and are seeing only good results come of it such as lesser hospital stays and fewer unnecessary and sometimes painful tests being ran. (Isabel Healthcare, 2011)

* Szolovits, P., Patil, R. S., & Schwartz, W. B. (1988). Artificial Intelligence in Medical Diagnosis. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 108(1), 80-87. Retrieved from EBSCO*host*.
* Erin, D. (n.d). For doctors, diagnosing gets a technological boost. *USA Today*. Retrieved from EBSCO*host*..
* Isabel Healthcare (2011, Janurary). *Isabel healthcare*. Retrieved from http://www.isabelhealthcare.com/home/product\_overview/products1