A Response to *As We May Think* (Vannevar Bush, 1945)

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I find myself immediately agree with Bush’s basic premise that as the sciences (and to generalise, societies) become increasingly specialized, the difficulty of disseminating knowledge outside of the academic disciplines in which the research was conducted likewise becomes greater. And therefore, as this specialization occurs methods and technology related to the efficient and effective storage, organization, and dissemination of this knowledge becomes increasingly vital to prevent wisdom from being lost forever within departments or with academic elites.

I find his predictions of future technology really insightful and interesting, they say a lot indirectly about the technological paradigms of the time (the idea of storing thing digitally could not even be fathomed for instance, instead microfilm was improved apon in his hypotheticals), also it is related to sci fi I was reading over the summer (dune, the bible with microfilm).

I also love his version of the internet “Memex” which can be searched via an index, but also uses crowd sourcing to more meaningfully relate materials in “trails”.

Finally I do not agree that machines can only be useful in fields in which logic and repetition are used. I believe computers can be as creative as humans, and I think new breakthroughs in neural networks and machine learning show that technically deterministic entities can behave by all extent and purposes in very creative ways, and that this shows that there is no essential difference (to use the gendered language found in the article) man and machine.