

News Item

Could Those Information Boxes Under YouTube Conspiracy Videos Add Legitimacy Instead of Reduce it? | Nieman Journalism Lab

By Joshua Benton April 16, 2019

Yesterday, I <u>wrote about YouTube's algorithmic screwup</u> which somehow associated images of Notre-Dame Cathedral burning with the 9/11 attacks and embedded information about those attacks under news organizations' live streams from Paris. And in that piece, I noted a number of other times YouTube's algorithm — which is meant to put reliable information under conspiracy videos on topics like the moon landing, the Sandy Hook shootings, and yes, 9/11 — had screwed up.

(At various points, YouTube has put 9/11 information under videos of 1970s New York at Christmastime, a rocket launch, a "Chill Music" streaming radio station, and a random San Francisco fire. It's also done things like label a professor's retirement video with a Star of David and the label "Jew.")

[...]

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