

10 PILLARS OF KNOWLEDGE

MAP OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE



Our knowledge is growing while we conquer new horizons. New fields emerge as we conceive innovative ideas, improve our scientific methods, and invent new technologies. Yet, we fail to capture the whole picture and the logical relations among the various parts of knowledge.

10 Pillars of Knowledge is a systematic map of human knowledge. It presents, at a glance, the structure of knowledge and the meaningful relations among the main fields. Human knowledge is composed of 10 pillars:

- Foundations
- Supernatural
- Matter and Energy
- Space and Earth
- Non-Human Organisms
- Body and Mind
- Society
- Thought and Art
- Technology
- History

Foundations studies human knowledge, *Supernatural* concerns mysticism and religion, *Matter and Energy* explores the basics of the physical world, *Space and Earth* explores our planet and outer space, *Non-Human Organisms* explores the non-human living world, or fauna and flora; while *Body and Mind* is focused on the human body and mind, *Society* deals with the various aspects of human social life, *Thought and Art* studies the products of human creativity, which are designed to achieve practical aims, *History* encompasses human history.

Knowledge – Supernatural – Universe – Humans. The 10 pillars are organized into four groups, which explore four general phenomena: knowledge (pillar 1), supernatural (pillar 2), universe (pillars 3-4-5), and humans (pillars 6-7-8-9-10).

Living world. *Non-Human Organisms* (pillar 5) and *Body and Mind* (pillar 6) belong, from cultural and religious perspectives, to different phenomena. *Non-Human Organisms* is part of the universe, while *Body and Mind* is part of humanity. However, from a scientific perspective, *Non-Human Organisms* and *Body and Mind* are interrelated. They are part of the same general phenomenon, the Living World.

Categories vs. fields. Every pillar is composed of relevant categories. Every category presents the relevant fields. For example, *Matter and Energy* is composed of three main categories, *Theory*, *Principles*, and *Substances*. The *Theory* category presents two fields, *Philosophy of Physics*, and *Philosophy of Space and Time*. *Principles* presents *Physics*, and *Substances* presents *Chemistry*. The distinction between categories of the map and fields of knowledge is essential.

Library of human knowledge. Imagine that the Map mirrors a library. The pillars are bookcases, the categories are shelves, and the fields are books. The *Library of Human Knowledge* has an impressive collection of hundreds of books (i.e., fields). They are stored in ten bookcases (i.e., pillars), which are divided into relevant shelves (i.e., categories).

Human knowledge is constantly growing. New books are written. Old books are revised. This is the nature of our cultural heritage.

Theory – Embodiment. Human knowledge follows a Theory – Embodiment structure. It is implemented within the map level, the pillar level, and the field level.

At the map level, pillar 1 is the “theory” part of human knowledge and pillars 2 through 10 are the “embodiment” part. Pillar 1 includes meta-knowledge (i.e., knowledge about knowledge) or rather the “theory” of human knowledge. Pillars 2-10 embody our knowledge of the supernatural, the universe, and human phenomena, which are the center of human exploration.

At the pillar level, the first category, *Theory*, is the “theoretical” part of the pillar. It presents fields that are focused on the theoretical aspects of the explored phenomena (e.g., *Philosophy of Knowledge*, *Philosophy of Science*). The other categories embody our knowledge of the explored phenomena. All the pillars share the Theory – Embodiment structure, with one exception. Pillar 8, *Thought and Art*, is divided into three sections, *Thought*, *Literature*, and *Non-Literary Arts*; each one of them has its own Theory – Embodiment structure.

At the field level, the “theory” section is implemented in the theory of the field (for example, *Philosophy of Medicine* is part of the “theory” section of *Medicine*). The other sections embody our knowledge of the relevant phenomena. In the example of *Medicine*, these are *Internal Medicine*, *Pediatrics*, *Surgery*, and the like. Note that the map above does not zoom on the field level.

Knowledge maps. Knowledge maps shape the way we perceive the world and act in it. They are expected to be systematic and comprehensive. *10 Pillars of Knowledge* is systematic and comprehensive. It seems obvious and reflects the way most of us conceive our knowledge. This simplicity is a product of an ongoing study aimed at mapping contemporary human knowledge – a study that started nearly ten years ago.