Bonfire

SEO - National Training Program

Cedar Woods Training Session 2

Presented by

Matthew Elshaw





SEO - Training Agenda



Topics We Will Cover:

- I. Overview of Google's algorithm
- 2. Top ranking factors
- 3. Al search future
- 4. Key takeaways
- 5. Questions



Overview of Google'sAlgorithm



How does Google work?

1. Google crawls pages.

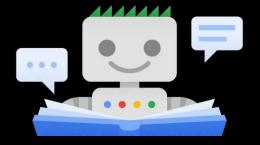
That means Google discovers the page exists (e.g., by following a link from a known page to a new page or reading a sitemap).



Google determines what the page is about and whether or not it is unique and high quality. Not every page will be indexed.

3. Google ranks and serves pages.

Indexed pages are then served to users when they conduct a search. This is where the search ranking algorithm comes in. Pages are ordered by which ones Google thinks are most relevant and helpful.

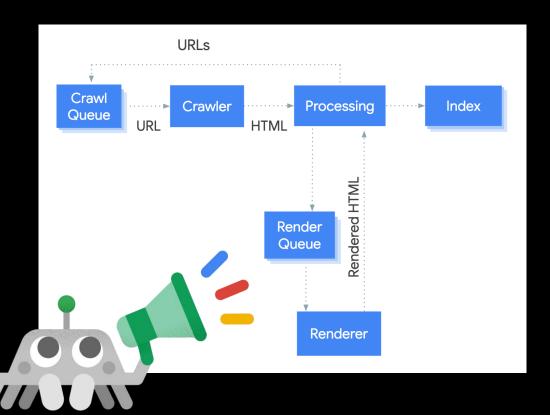








Crawling



To rank a webpage, Google needs to be able to **find it**.

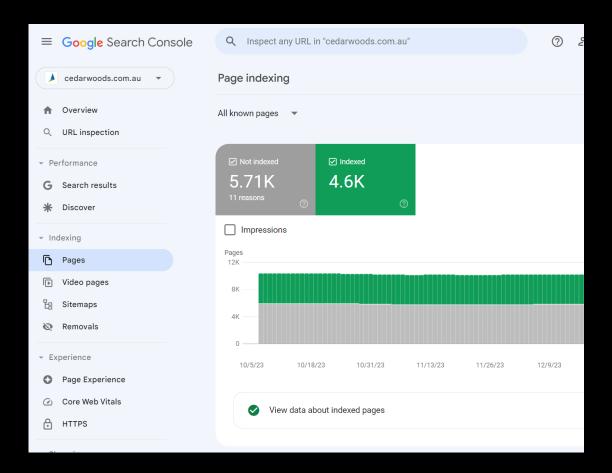
- 1. There isn't a central registry of all web pages, so Google must constantly look for new and updated pages.
- 2. Pages are discovered when Google follows a link from a known page to a new page.
- 3. Other pages are discovered when you submit a list of pages (a sitemap) for Google to crawl.
- 4. Once Google discovers a page's URL, it may visit (or "crawl") the page to find out what's on it.
- 5. Server errors, Robots.txt rules, timeouts and more can prevent Google from finding pages.
- 6. The way pages are linked with one another is very important.



Indexing

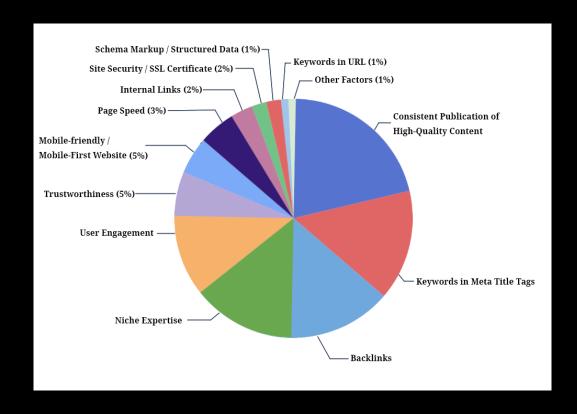
After a page is crawled, Google tries to understand what the page is about.

- 1. it includes processing and analysing the textual content and key content tags and attributes, such as <title> elements and alt attributes, images, videos, and more.
- 2. Indexing isn't guaranteed; not every page that Google processes will be indexed.
- 3. Some common indexing issues can include:
 - 1. The quality of the content on page is low
 - 2. Robots meta rules disallow indexing
 - 3. The design of the website might make indexing difficult
 - 4. Technical issues can also prevent indexing





Ranking & Serving



The order of search results is determined by **hundreds of ranking factors**.

We like to group these factors into four key areas:

- 1. Accessibility & Indexation
- 2. Content & Design
- 3. Code & Technical
- 4. Off-Page Factors



Google Search AlgorithmRanking Factors



1. Content Relevance & Quality

Understand and Create Relevant Content: To rank for a target keyword, understand the searcher's intent and create content that provides relevant information, observing the format and type of content that ranks well, such as videos, lists or informational content.

Keyword Usage and Google's Algorithm: Include your target keyword naturally in the title tag, URL, H1, meta description, and body text, but focus on quality and relevance as Google's algorithm prioritizes the best-fit pages over mere keyword frequency or placement.

Unique & Full Topical Coverage: To rank highly, we need to look at what's ranking, and produce a piece of content that's better than everyone else. Aim to expand on key ideas, go deeper, give examples and alternatives. Copycat style content won't work in the long-term.



On-Page SEO Checklist

Identify Target Keywords Optimize the Title Tag Improve Navigation with Internal Write Your Headline in an H1 Tag Links ☐ 4. Write a Meta Description that ☐ 10. Add Engaging Visual Content **Boosts Clicks** ☐ 11. Apply Schema Markup ☐ 5. Check the URL Slug for SEO-Friendliness **BONUS:** Start on Your Technical SEO ☐ 6. Add Target Keywords to Your ☐ 12. Make Sure Your Page is Indexed **Body Content** Review Your Content Quality Increase Page Speed 8. Mark Up Subheadings with ☐ 14. Make Sure Your Page

is Mobile-Friendly

Header Tags

1a. E-E-A-T & HCU

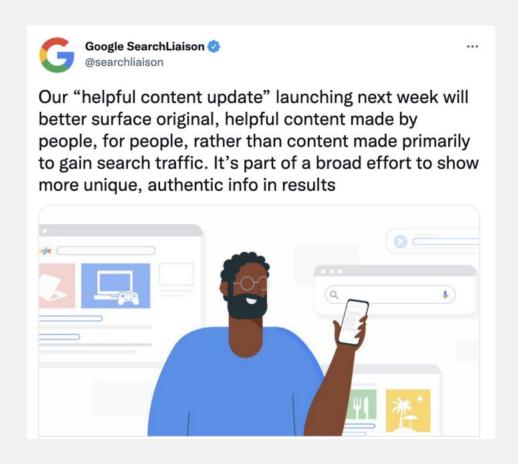
E-E-A-T = Expertise, Experience, Authoritativeness, and Trustworthiness

It comes from Google's Search Quality Rater Guidelines - a 168page document used by human quality raters to assess the quality of Google's search results.

How to demonstrate E-E-A-T?

- Create new, unique and valuable content don't just regurgitate information that already exists elsewhere.
- Foster trust and credibility by including detailed company/team information. Make it easy for readers to understand who wrote the content and get in touch.
- Clearly cite any sources you use (and make sure they're credible).
- Supplement content with first-hand experience.

HCU/HCS = Helpful Content Update/System



2. User Experience (UX)

Good UX improves both SEO & conversion rates.

Google wants to reward pages that deliver a great user experience. Which can mean:

- Fast page load speeds
- Functional website design
- Clear imagery
- A mobile-friendly experience
- No frustrating pop-ups or excessive ads
- · Clear navigation and website structure
- Security (HTTPS)





2a. "Pogo Sticking"



How bad UX impacts rankings

Pogo sticking is when a searcher clicks on a search result and then goes back to the SERPs and moves on to the next one.

This may signal to search engines that the initial result didn't provide the user with the content they were looking for.

Google uses this click data in addition to CWV and other UX signals.



3. Backlinks

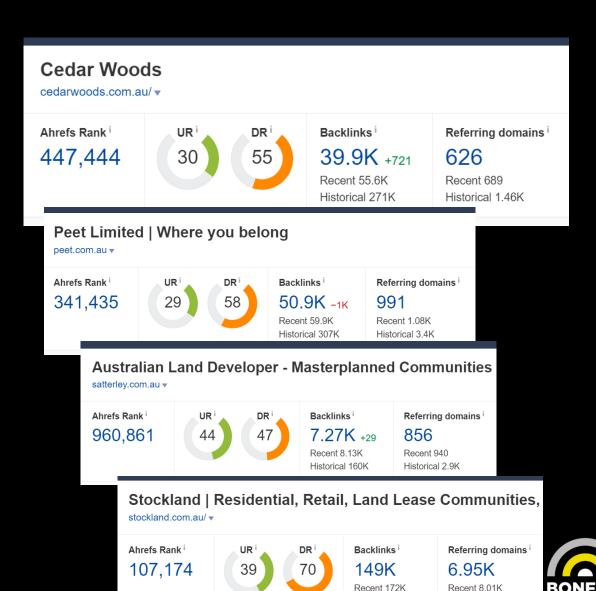
Links from other websites to your website act like votes of confidence.

This is also known as "PageRank" and formed the foundation of Google's original algorithm.

It's also why we recommended consolidating CWP project websites on to one central & powerful domain.

Backlink Recommendations:

- 1. Ensure we *always* 301 redirect any expired/broken pages. This includes projects that have reached completion.
- 2. Raise importance of backlink generation across the business. Any time the CWP brand is included in PR, Sponsorship or News, we want to be asking for a link and following up.
- 3. Leverage relationships & internal assets. Interlink when business relationships exist and between all owned domains.
- 4. Create linkable assets using first party data, regular media commentary, free guides/checklists & different media types (videos, podcasts, inforgraphics, etc).
- 5. Every piece of social content needs a link.



Historical 2.44M

Historical 21.8K

4. Technical SEO

Optimising the technical elements or code of the website can be just as important as the content itself.

You can have the best website with the best content.

But if the 'behind the scenes' or technical elements of your website aren't correct – you're not going to rank.

Typically, recommendations will come from Bonfire and we will need assistance to get these implemented.

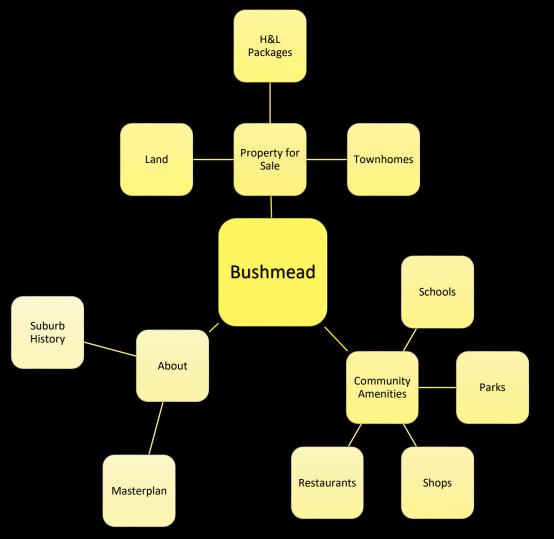
Examples of work in this space:

- 1. Javascript rendering recommendations
- 2. Optimised URL structures
- 3. XML Sitemaps
- 4. Structured data
- 5. Canonical tags
- 6. 301 redirects





5. Topical Authority



The trust you build by consistently creating high-quality content around a subject close to your business.

Google strives to deliver the best possible search experiences. It prioritizes the most relevant, helpful, and trustworthy pages when organizing results.

Businesses can build topical authority by consistently creating original, factual, and insightful content that:

- Naturally incorporates relevant keywords
- Is easily readable—not swamped with inaccessible jargon
- Resonates with searchers (e.g., solves their problems or meets other needs)

Our goal is to demonstrate topical authority in land development, residential property and the local area/suburb for each project.



6. Social & Brand

Websites that have strong social signals correlate highly with those that rank well in Google.

Despite not being a direct ranking factor, social media signals can play an indirect role in SEO.

Google's Search Quality Rating Guidelines mention social media posts and profiles as one of the factors that manual search evaluators should use to assess the reputation of both content creators and websites.

How to build strong social signals

- Create and actively maintain profiles across major social networks like Facebook, Linkedin, YouTube, Tiktok, X & Instagram.
- · Regular posts and activity helps build social authority
- Create sharable content
- · Include backlinks where relevant

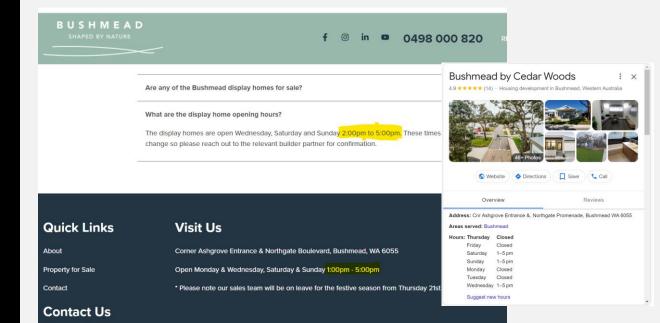
Brand, Entities & Knowledge Graph

The Google Knowledge Graph is an enormous database of information. It enables Google to provide immediate and factual answers to search queries about real-world topics.

It is a complex network of information and attributes on different entities.

The knowledge graph learns from trusted sources including social profiles, Wikipedia, our own websites, Google business profiles etc.

It is important to ensure we maintain accurate information across all properties to build trust with Google.



The Future of SEO & Search



The Al future of Search

1. Feb 2023 - Bing goes live with AI chat functionality

Bing goes live with Al powered search results, thanks to their partnership with OpenAl.

- 2. May 2023 Google launches their version of generative search
 Google loses the first mover advantage and is forced to go to
 market earlier than they would have liked.
- 3. Nov 2023 Google expands SGE to 120+ countries Google expands their generative AI trail from the US to 120 countries across the world. Sadly, Australia is not one of them, however it shows their commitment towards the AI future of search.

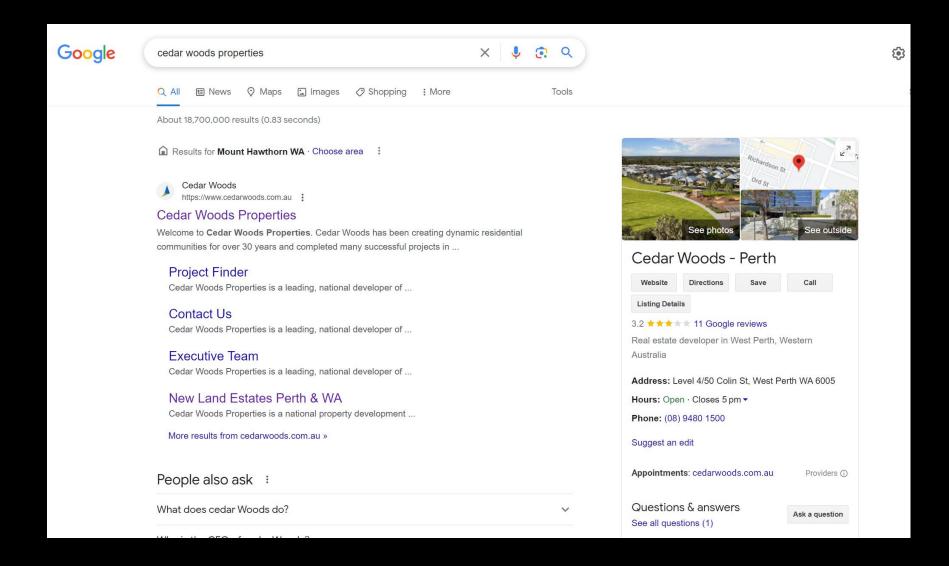


Artificial intelligence would be the ultimate version of Google. The ultimate search engine that would understand everything on the Web. It would understand exactly what you wanted, and it would give you the right thing. We're nowhere near doing that now. However, we can get incrementally closer to that, and that is basically what we work on.

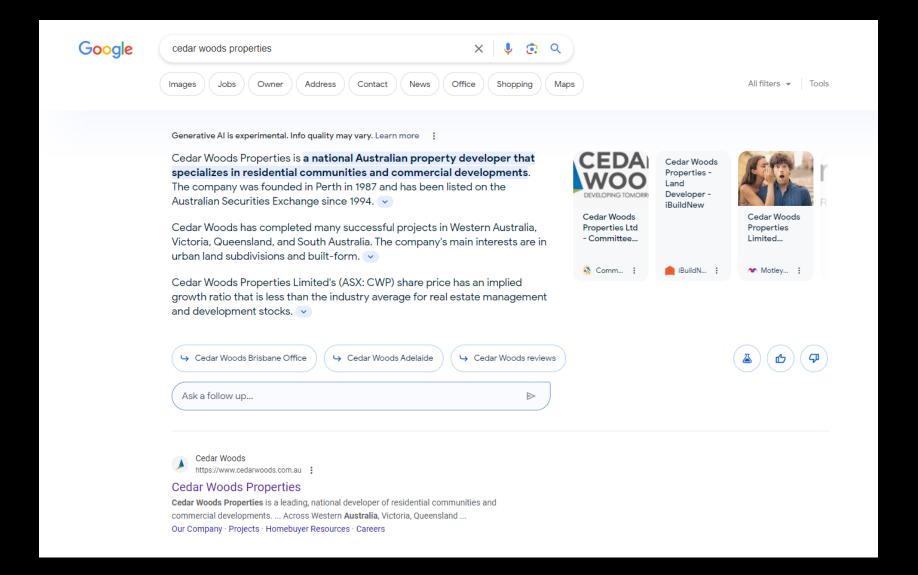
— Larry Page —

AZ QUOTES

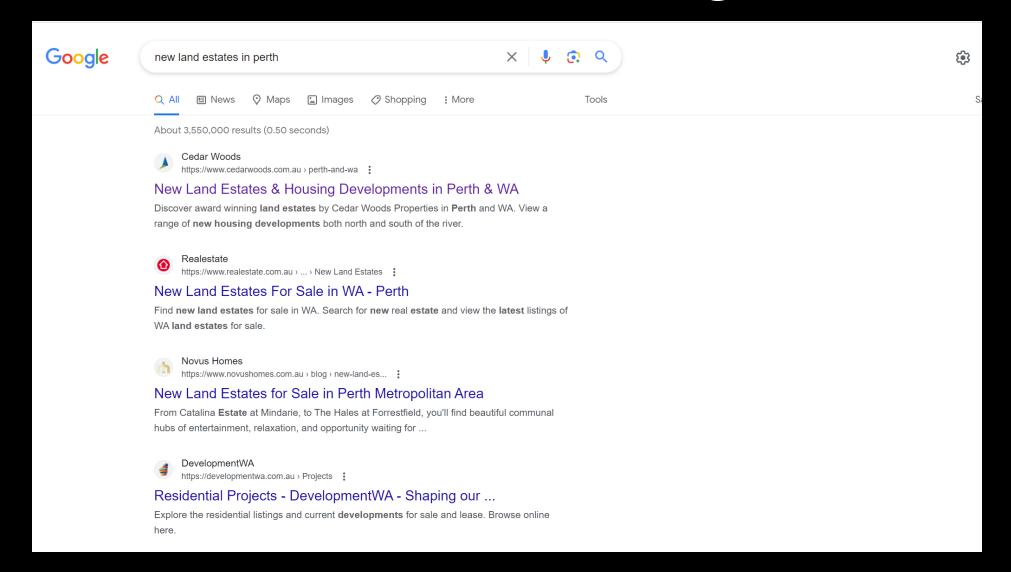




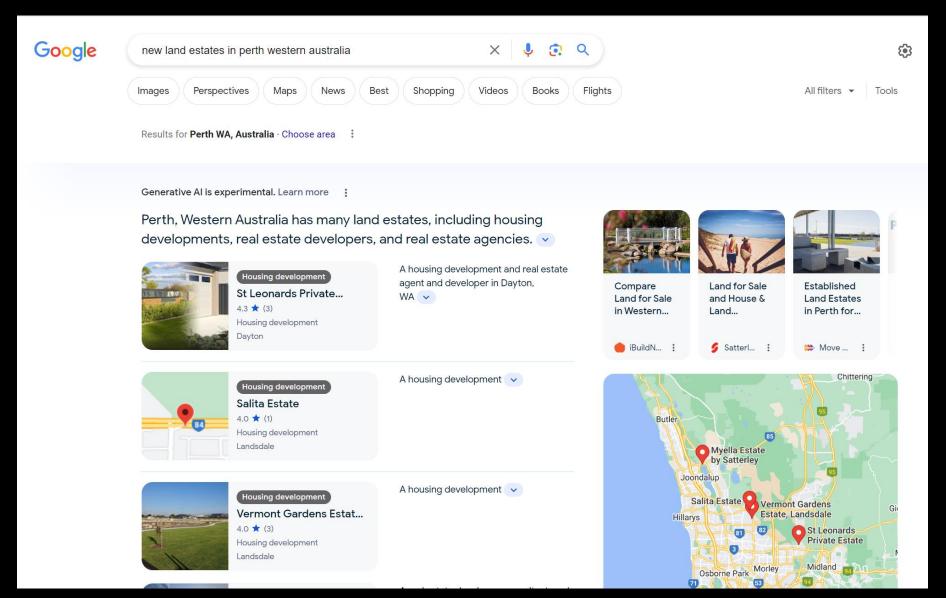




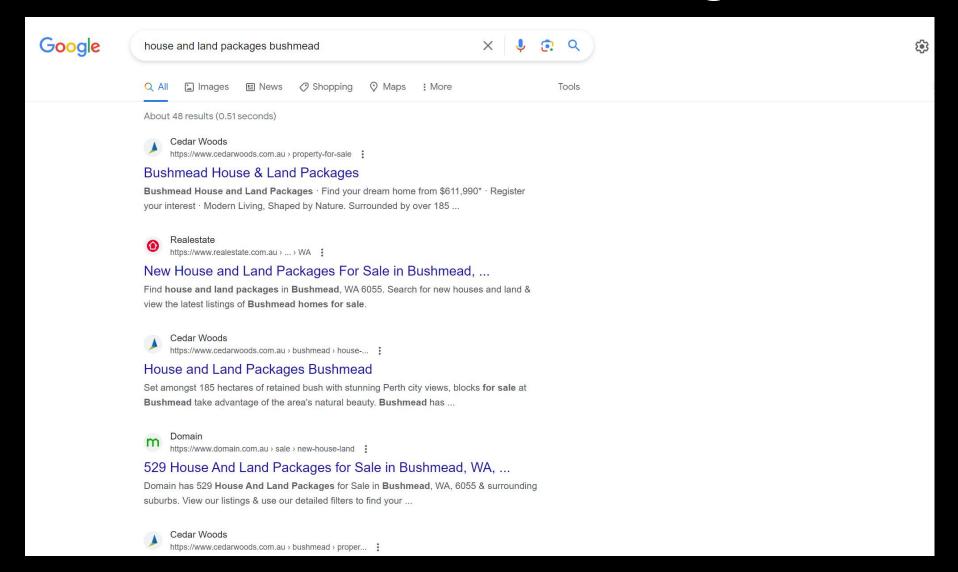




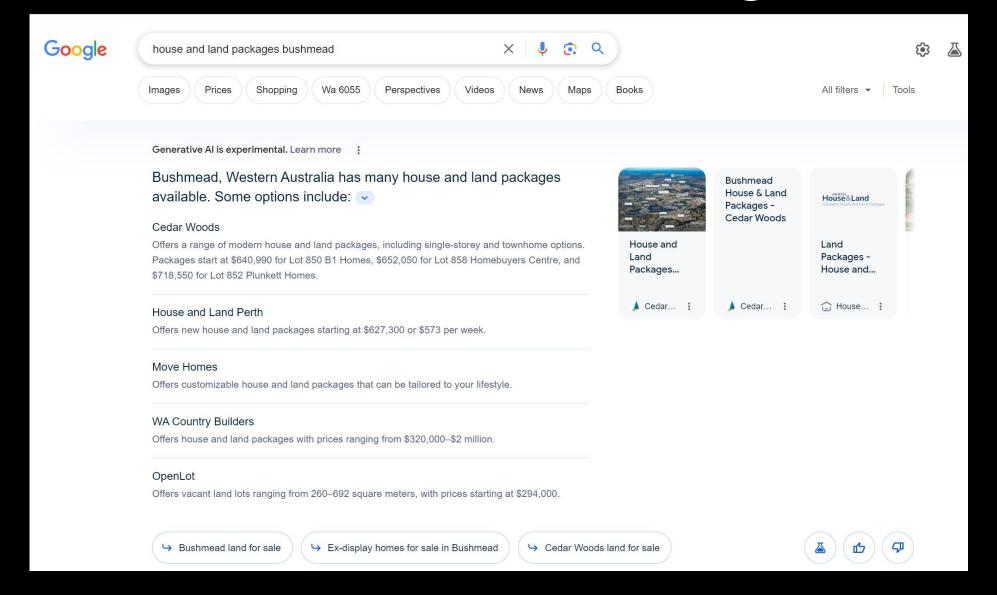










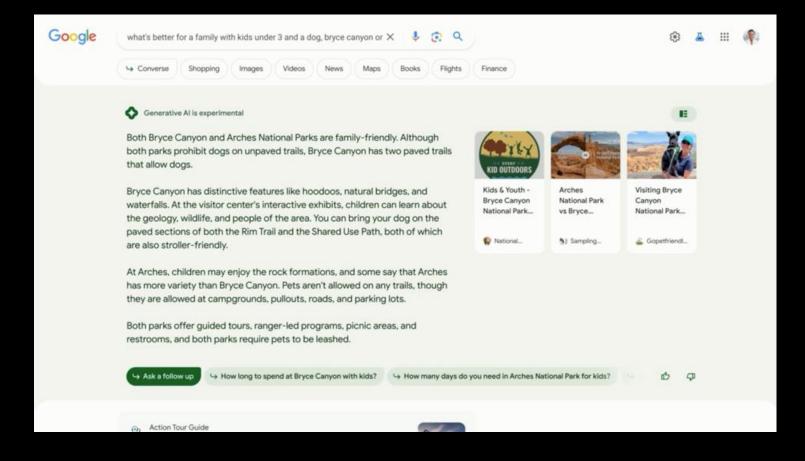




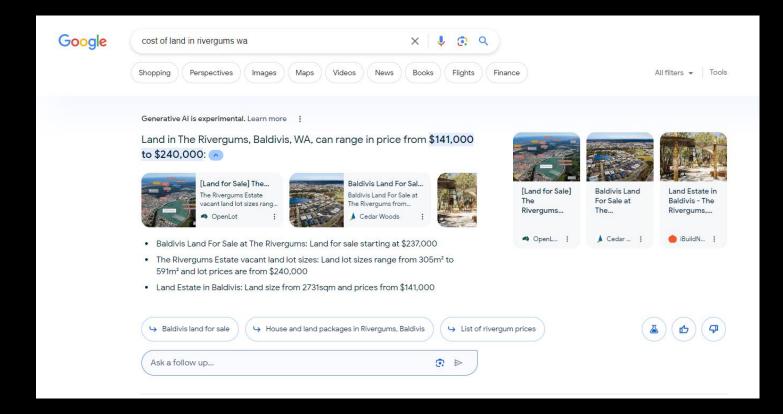
Search will become more conversational

As consumers adapt to a new way of searching, queries will shift from keywords to sentences.

This will influence the content we create and how we optimise pages.







A shift in SEO value, from clicks to impressions.

We will continue to see consistent growth in the number of people searching online, however this may not necessarily lead to increased clicks, with more queries being answered in the SERP.

This will see moments of influence reported via impressions instead of just clicks.

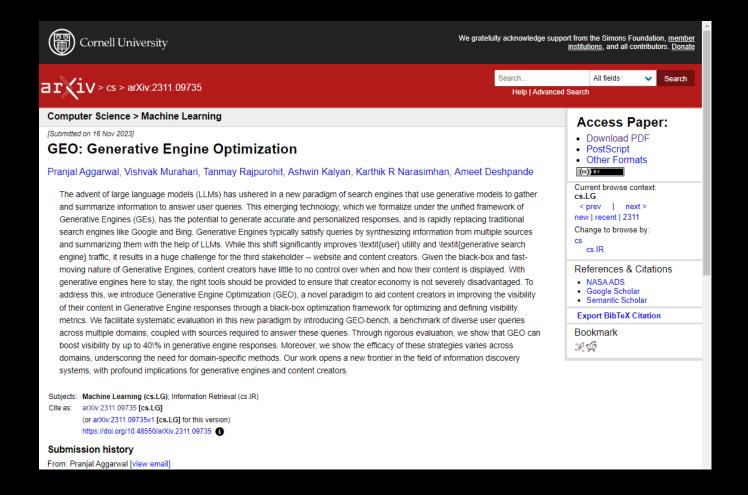


How we communicate SEO impact will need to change

New SEO reports will need to be developed to communicate the value of SEO impressions and the brand citations in these answers.







New tactical optimisation strategies will be developed

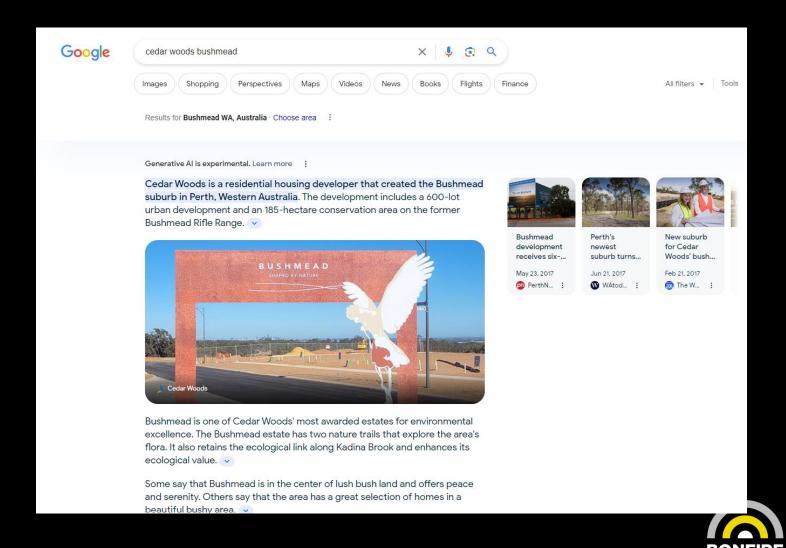
SEO strategies will need to evolve beyond optimising for a click.

A new focus on optimisation towards inclusion in Al answers and the sentiment of this information will evolve.



Brands may lose some control of their branded search

With Al answers responding to branded queries, brands will lose some control over the brand story, increasing the importance of good SEO and accurate measurement.



Key takeaways

- 1. Search is not going anywhere. If anything, it will become more useful, valuable and important.
- 2. Generative Al results may start to hit the CEOs desk. A big shakeup to the search experience will have everyone asking questions.
- **3.** Businesses that embrace this change will see outsized returns. Whenever there is a big change, businesses that embrace the opportunity early have a chance to take a leadership position.
- **4.** We are here to partner with you on this journey. Getting our clients ready for this change is our whole-of-company priority. We're here to guide you and recommend the next steps.



