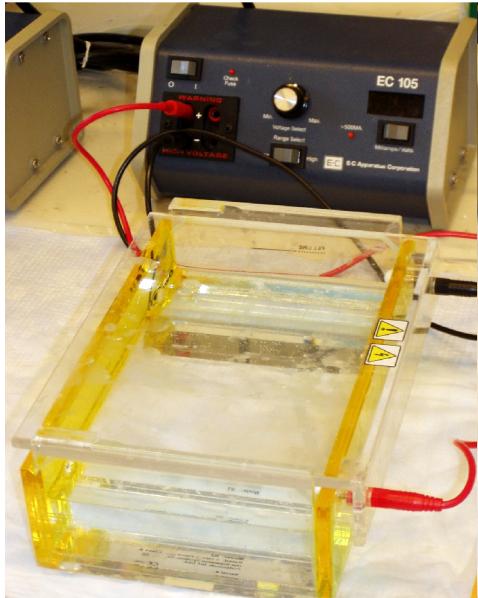


Why do we seek knowledge?

Gel electrophoresis box

We seek knowledge driven by curiosity to learn and know more about the world. Whilst



researching potential topics for my EE and focusing mainly on the genetic aspect of biology, I came across the gel electrophoresis experiment. I knew nothing about what it displayed and how it worked, yet I was very curious to understand how this object could demonstrate and compare DNA sequences. It was introduced in the 1960's to separate DNA from RNA. Today, gel electrophoresis separates DNA fragments based on their size; and is used in DNA profiling, to understand genes linked diseases, or analyze PCR and fingerprints.

I selected this object because it triggered my curiosity and made me seek knowledge by stimulating my learning and fulfilling my urge to pursue more knowledge. It also guided me to determine what I was most interested in, and potentially wanted to do at university. Humans are driven by curiosity and it is a characteristic that has motivated us to explore and interrogate forever. Depending on personal interests and preferences, people will be responsive to different triggers, but forever remain curious and want answers conveyed by knowledge.

The goal of scientific research is to generate theories and laws that can explain social or natural phenomena¹. In research, scientific equipment (like gel electrophoresis), is a key component that

¹ Anol, University of South Florida, Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices.

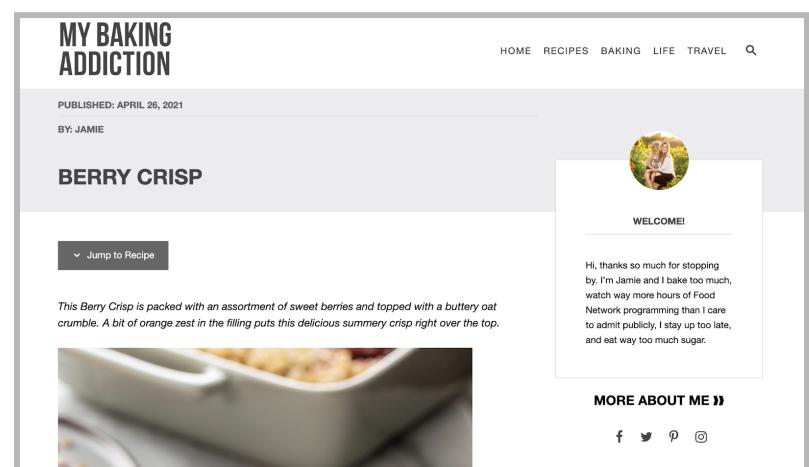
<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-research-methods/chapter/chapter-1-science-and-scientific-research/#:~:text=The%20goal%20of%20scientific%20research,other%20words%2C%20build%20scientific%20knowledge>, accessed on May 14 2021.

can demonstrate and support hypotheses. We use evidence to build scientific knowledge and attain relative certainty. It's the difference between knowledge and belief; believing that something is true doesn't give you assured certainty, whilst knowing gives you complete certainty. However, even though scientific knowledge is more certain than knowledge in other disciplines such as history, certainty remains relative and never fully contingent and provisional.

We can attain close certainty, and hence knowledge by using deductive and inductive reasoning. Inductive reasoning aims to develop a theory whilst deductive reasoning aims to test an existing one. Our constant desire to seek knowledge in sciences is used to falsify theories, answer questions and explain more.

Blog “My Baking Addiction”

The blog “My Baking Addiction” was initiated by Jamie, a woman passionate about baking who wanted to share her excitement with people of the same interest, wishing to learn more. The blog enables her to engage with a community which you need to comprehend to be a part of. Every group has its codes, its way of communicating and thinking. We seek knowledge to be part of a community of knowers. We have been taught since our youngest age that the more knowledge we have, the more we will be recognized and appreciated.



As our knowledge grows, we are able to perceive alternative mindsets and communicate conclusively with a wider range of people, therefore enabling us to integrate into a community.

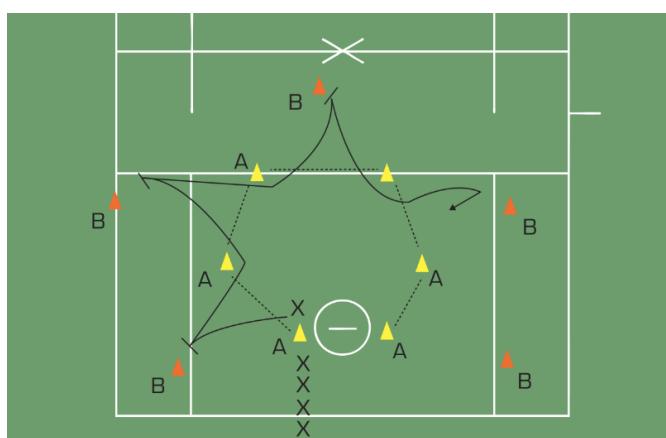
For everyone to have direct access to every community, all social intentions and behaviors would have to be interpreted in the same way. The meaning of gestures would have to be identical for all and there would be no conflicts, misunderstandings or divergences of opinions. However, we know that in our society, it is not like that, we have our perspective and bias due to our culture, background and beliefs. So in reality, everyone cannot be part of every community of knowers, but to integrate into one, they must learn and assimilate the unspoken and spoken rules of that group.

Technology (like the blog) facilitates the spread of knowledge and information worldwide, nonetheless, the shared information will never be equally accessible to everyone because depending on who you are and where you live, you will get access to different information.

For example, we seek the knowledge of baking through Jamie's blog to be able to make varied recipes and share them with our loved ones, as baking is characterised by sharing. We belong to groups of people that share common characteristics with us such as language, interests and geographical location, therefore we seek knowledge to have more information and be part of more communities of knowers.

Lacrosse game strategy diagram

We seek knowledge to be empowered by being more knowledgeable and able to share more. It



means that we are more confident and powerful, we can become more independent and achieve our goals faster and better. "Empowered people need less guidance and direction from outside influences like them. When you are empowered, you are

taking control of your own destiny”². I chose the lacrosse game strategy board as my object because it represents the empowerment received by the knowledge of the game strategy. The skills conveyed by knowledge can then be used when physically playing lacrosse.

It is important to me because I played lacrosse for many years and have learnt numerous different game strategies that enabled me to attack and defend more skillfully. It is an essential part of the game because the knowledge of the strategy equips us with more perspective and insight, it can make a team feel empowered, therefore giving us tools to be stronger and smarter players.

It allows players to feel focused and useful during a game by giving everyone a goal and a specific role to play. With time, the various theoretical strategies become unconscious deductive reasoning and we can ally intuition and motivation to enable us to win and be efficient.

The more we know, the more we are able to improve and influence varied aspects of a lacrosse game, this applies just as well to the different aspects of our lives. We seek the knowledge of the game strategy to be empowered by the theory when actually playing. More generally, we seek knowledge to be empowered in order to be more complete individuals in our daily lives.

Total Words: 949

²Blehart, MJ, May 20 2019, Knowledge is power, <https://medium.com/swlh/knowledge-is-power-3670f18d6fb>, accessed on May 7 2021.

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Image 1: ‘Gel electrophoresis’. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gel_electrophoresis, accessed 26 May 2021.

Image 2: ‘My baking addiction’. Blog my baking addiction. <https://www.mybakingaddiction.com/>, accessed 25 May 2021.

Image 3: From author’s personal collection