



Sources for Scanning

Foresight practitioners are constantly scanning for weak signals (i.e. signs of significant change that may impact particular systems). There are an infinite number of sources for scanning and the types of sources used may depend on the particular topic under study, the scanner's preferences, the availability of the information, the reliability of the information, and a host of other factors.

Horizons uses the acronym STEEG as a frame of reference for scanning. STEEG stands for Society, Technology, Economy, Environment and Governance. This breadth of categories reminds the scanner to look for signs of change in varied domains. Using STEEG as a guide can also help focus scanning. While scanning sources such as traditional newspapers and journals (e.g. *The Economist*, the *Guardian*, *The New York Times*) may be useful to find weak signals or contextualize them, the foresight practitioner should also aim to look beyond traditional news feeds to bolster their scanning.

Below is a list of non-traditional scanning sources. This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but is merely meant to provide a sample of interesting scanning sites. They have been roughly arranged according to STEEG, although it should be noted that there is no dividing line between these categories (e.g. GreenBiz deals with issues related to the environment and the economy, which will also have an impact on society). Also included is a sample list of general scanning sources that cut across STEEG categories.

General scanning sources:

- Shaping Tomorrow - <http://www.shapingtomorrow.com/>
- Quartz - <http://qz.com/>
- iKnow Community- <http://community.iknowfutures.eu/>
- Trend Watching - <http://trendwatching.com/>
- World Future Society - <http://www.wfs.org/home.php>
- The Futures Agency - <http://thefuturesagency.com/>
- Deloitte University Press - <http://dupress.com/periodical/signals-for-strategists/>
- Brookings - <http://www.brookings.edu/>
- BBC Future - <http://www.bbc.com/future/>
- Futurity - <http://www.futurity.org/> (research news from top universities)
- Oxford Martin School: <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/> (The University of Oxford's

department for the long-term study of the 21st century)

- Utne Reader - <https://www.utne.com/>
- Futuribles - <https://www.futuribles.com/fr/>
- Le Figaro - <http://www.lefigaro.fr/>
- Le Monde - <http://www.lemonde.fr/>

Society:

- Entrepreneur - <http://www.entrepreneur.com/topic/social-entrepreneurship> (intersection between impacts of technology on business and society)
- The Science Daily - http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/science_society/social_issues/
- The Atlantic - <http://www.theatlantic.com/>
- Arts & Letters Daily - <http://www.aldaily.com/>
- Quartz - <http://qz.com/>
- Note: most of the other STEEG and general categories contain scanning hits that have social implications, so one can gather weak signals from those sites as well.

Technology:

- Singularity Hub - <http://singularityhub.com/> (technological changes and corresponding social impacts)
- Kurzweil Accelerating Intelligence - <http://www.kurzweilai.net> (biological and machine technologies and their impacts on the world)
- SciTechDaily - <http://scitechdaily.com/>
- Ars Technica - <http://arstechnica.com/>
- Motherboard Vice - http://motherboard.vice.com/en_ca
- MIT Technology Review - <https://www.technologyreview.com/>
- IEEE Spectrum - <http://spectrum.ieee.org/> (technology, engineering, sciency and energy news)
- New Atlas - <http://newatlas.com/>
- Gizmodo - <http://gizmodo.com/>
- Futurity - <http://www.futurity.org/>

Economy:

- Fast Company - <http://www.fastcompany.com/> (ideas on innovative products and business practices; good source of infographics)
- Business Insider - www.businessinsider.com (mix of business, economics, technology)
- McKinsey Insights - <http://www.mckinsey.com/insights>
- The New Economy - <http://www.theneweconomy.com/> (looking at technology and innovation in the wider business context)
- Les Affaires - <http://www.lesaffaires.com/>

Environment:

- Eco-Business - <http://www.eco-business.com/> (technology, engineering, science and energy news; the energy section is particularly useful)
- GreenBiz - <http://www.greenbiz.com/>
- Climate Home - <http://www.climatechangenews.com/> (developments in global climate change politics and policy)
- IEEE Spectrum - <http://spectrum.ieee.org/>

Governance:

- Foreign Policy - <http://foreignpolicy.com/> (coverage of global affairs)
- Nextgov - <http://www.nextgov.com> (discusses how technology and innovation are transforming the way government agencies serve citizens)
- Defense One - <http://www.defenseone.com/> (security and military based news)
- The Diplomat: <http://thediplomat.com/> (an Asian-Pacific view on foreign affairs)
- Geopolitical Futures: <https://geopoliticalfutures.com/> (offers free briefings on current issues with an eye to the medium to long term future; they also offer a paid service with more detailed foresight reports)
- Stratfor - <https://www.stratfor.com>

Some other tools that foresight practitioners can use for scanning or organizing their scanning hits:

- Pearltrees - www.pearltrees.com (a bookmarking site useful for storing your scanning hits and searching what others are scanning)
- Diigo - <https://www.diigo.com/> (social bookmarking)
- Flipboard - www.flipboard.com (a social network aggregation tool that provides customizable curation of news on a variety of topics)
- Twitter - www.twitter.com (in addition to following topics, try following individuals who write about the future)
- Visual Capitalist - <http://www.visualcapitalist.com/> (free infographics that elegantly capture timely stories about economics, politics, science, etc.)
- Storify - <https://storify.com/> (a free tool for making coherent narratives by dragging and dropping social media links)

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