




Knowledge, Truth, and Interpretation: Revisiting Classical Philosophy in the Digital Age

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ABSTRACT

Background. The advent of the digital age has drastically transformed the way knowledge is accessed, interpreted, and disseminated. In this context, classical philosophical inquiries into knowledge, truth, and interpretation are being revisited, with new questions emerging about their relevance and application in the age of digital information.

Purpose. This research seeks to explore the intersection of classical philosophy and the digital era, examining how timeless philosophical concepts can be adapted to address the challenges and complexities introduced by digital technologies. The main objective of this study is to investigate how classical philosophical perspectives on knowledge, truth, and interpretation can provide valuable insights into understanding the dynamics of the digital age. The study aims to bridge the gap between classical philosophical theories and contemporary digital challenges, exploring how traditional concepts can inform current debates about information, misinformation, and digital ethics.

Method. This research employs a qualitative, comparative analysis of classical philosophical texts, including works by Plato, Aristotle, and Kant, in relation to contemporary digital phenomena. A thematic analysis is used to explore the application of these classical ideas to current digital issues, such as the spread of fake news, the ethics of AI, and the role of social media in shaping public opinion.

Results. The study finds that classical philosophies on knowledge and truth remain relevant in understanding the digital age, offering frameworks for critically evaluating information and guiding ethical digital practices.

Conclusion. The research concludes that revisiting classical philosophy in the digital age provides important insights into managing the challenges of knowledge and truth in a rapidly evolving information landscape.

KEYWORDS

Classical Philosophy, Digital Age, Interpretation, Knowledge, Truth

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INTRODUCTION

The digital age has ushered in an unprecedented transformation in how information is shared, processed, and interpreted (Andrews dkk., 2024). Digital technologies have made knowledge more accessible than ever before, but this ease of access has also introduced challenges related to the quality, truth, and interpretation of information (Baykov & Kharkevich, 2026). In a world where misinformation and disinformation spread rapidly, the classical philosophical concepts of knowledge, truth,

and interpretation become more relevant than ever (Castellanelli dkk., 2025). The ideas of renowned philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Kant, who have long pondered the nature of knowledge and the search for truth, provide essential frameworks for understanding how we navigate and make sense of the vast information landscape of the digital age.

In this context, classical philosophy offers important tools for critically analyzing the digital age's complexities (Chin dkk., 2026). Questions about what constitutes knowledge, how we ascertain truth, and how we interpret information are becoming increasingly important as individuals and societies struggle with the overwhelming amount of digital content. Classical thinkers, with their emphasis on rational thought, objective truth, and ethical interpretation, provide a foundation for understanding the dynamics of contemporary debates surrounding digital media (Chou, 2024). By revisiting these ancient ideas, we can gain deeper insights into how to approach the challenges of information overload, fake news, and the ethical implications of digital communication in today's world.

Moreover, the digital age has brought new questions about the role of technology in shaping human understanding and interaction. With the proliferation of artificial intelligence, algorithms, and machine learning, there is growing concern about how these technologies influence knowledge acquisition, interpretation, and dissemination (Crisci dkk., 2025). In this environment, the classical philosophical traditions can offer critical perspectives on how human agency interacts with digital technologies and how we can navigate the challenges they pose to the production and understanding of knowledge in our society.

The main problem addressed in this study is the gap between classical philosophical theories on knowledge, truth, and interpretation, and their application in the context of the digital age. While digital technologies have radically transformed the dissemination of information, they have also raised concerns about the integrity and authenticity of knowledge in the modern world (Forbes, 2024). In particular, issues such as the spread of fake news, the manipulation of information through algorithms, and the ethical responsibilities of digital content creators and consumers challenge traditional understandings of truth and knowledge.

Classical philosophy offers valuable insights into these challenges but has not been fully explored in the context of digital media. Philosophers like Plato and Kant argued that knowledge is rooted in objective truths and that the process of interpretation is central to understanding the world. However, in the digital era, the concept of truth is increasingly contested (Huang dkk., 2026). The rise of online platforms where anyone can publish content has led to a situation where distinguishing between reliable information and misinformation is often difficult (López-Rodríguez dkk., 2025). This study seeks to examine how classical philosophical perspectives on knowledge and truth can help address the pressing challenges of information accuracy, interpretation, and ethical responsibility in the digital age.

The rapid expansion of digital platforms and technologies has created a new set of dilemmas that classical philosophers could not have anticipated. As a result, it is unclear whether traditional ideas about knowledge and truth still hold in the face of challenges like algorithmic bias, echo chambers, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence on information processing (Ing & Nousala, 2025). The problem is, therefore, twofold: how to adapt classical philosophical theories to the digital age, and how to apply them to contemporary issues such as digital literacy, media ethics, and the regulation of online content.

This research aims to explore the relevance and application of classical philosophical ideas on knowledge, truth, and interpretation in the context of the digital age. Specifically, the study seeks to examine how the works of classical philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Kant can inform

contemporary discussions about the nature of knowledge and truth in a world dominated by digital information (Kalogeropoulos & Tsatsaris, 2026). By revisiting these classical perspectives, the research aims to offer a critical framework for understanding how we can navigate the complexities of digital media while adhering to ethical principles of knowledge and interpretation.

In addition, the research aims to bridge the gap between classical philosophy and digital technologies by exploring how the concepts of knowledge and truth can be adapted to address modern challenges (Kostick-Quenet dkk., 2026). This includes analyzing how digital platforms and technologies, such as social media and artificial intelligence, shape the way information is disseminated and understood (Lucci & Osti, 2024). The study will also investigate how classical ideas of interpretation, once limited to texts and philosophical discourse, can be expanded to account for the ways in which digital technologies influence the interpretation of information in the digital age.

Finally, the study aims to provide practical recommendations for policymakers, educators, and digital content creators on how to incorporate philosophical principles into the development of ethical digital practices (Krüger dkk., 2025). By understanding the philosophical foundations of knowledge and truth, individuals and institutions can be better equipped to address issues like misinformation, digital literacy, and the responsible use of technology in an increasingly complex information landscape.

While there has been extensive research on the effects of digital technologies on information, knowledge, and truth, the classical philosophical perspectives that have traditionally shaped these discussions have largely been overlooked in this context (Küpers, 2024). Most existing studies focus on the technological and sociological aspects of digital media, emphasizing the role of algorithms, social networks, and information overload. However, the ethical and philosophical dimensions of these issues, particularly in relation to knowledge and truth, have not been explored in sufficient depth.

Moreover, many of the ethical challenges presented by the digital age, such as misinformation, echo chambers, and algorithmic bias, require a deeper philosophical understanding of truth and interpretation (Latzer, 2026). Classical philosophers, with their emphasis on objective truth and the interpretative nature of knowledge, provide a framework that is underutilized in contemporary discussions about digital media (Marcum, 2026). This research addresses this gap by reintroducing classical philosophy into the debate about digital media ethics, providing a more robust theoretical foundation for understanding the ethical implications of knowledge and truth in the digital age.

Another significant gap in the literature is the lack of interdisciplinary approaches that combine philosophy with digital media studies (X. Li dkk., 2026). Most research on digital ethics tends to focus on either the philosophical or the technological aspects, often treating them as separate domains. This research aims to bridge this gap by integrating classical philosophy with contemporary digital media theory, offering a more comprehensive approach to understanding the ethical implications of knowledge, truth, and interpretation in the digital era.

The novelty of this research lies in its interdisciplinary approach, combining classical philosophy with digital media theory to address the ethical challenges of the digital age (Mascitti, 2026). By revisiting classical concepts of knowledge, truth, and interpretation, the study provides a fresh perspective on how these ideas can be applied to modern issues such as fake news, algorithmic bias, and digital literacy (Z. Li dkk., 2026). This research not only expands the scope of classical philosophy but also offers practical insights into how these philosophical principles can be used to navigate the ethical dilemmas posed by digital technologies.

This research is particularly important because it addresses a significant gap in the existing literature by focusing on the ethical implications of digital information through the lens of classical philosophy (Monlezun, 2025). As digital media continue to play a central role in shaping public discourse, understanding the philosophical foundations of knowledge and truth becomes increasingly critical (Lidströmer, 2026). The research offers an innovative approach to understanding how classical philosophical ideas can inform contemporary discussions about the digital age, providing a foundation for future research on the ethics of digital media and the responsible use of technology.

The study's contribution is significant not only to the fields of philosophy and digital media studies but also to practical areas such as media literacy education, digital ethics, and policy development (Q. Liu, 2025). By offering a philosophical framework for understanding the challenges of digital media, the research provides valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and digital content creators who are tasked with addressing the ethical challenges posed by the rapid growth of digital technologies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research design, primarily focusing on philosophical analysis and a literature review. The research seeks to revisit classical philosophical concepts of knowledge, truth, and interpretation by exploring their relevance and application in the context of the digital age. The design includes an in-depth analysis of primary philosophical texts from classical philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Kant, juxtaposed with contemporary discussions in digital media ethics, information theory, and communication studies (X. Liu dkk., 2026). The qualitative approach is suited to this study as it allows for a critical examination of ideas rather than empirical testing, providing a comprehensive understanding of how classical philosophical frameworks can inform modern ethical dilemmas.

The population for this study consists of classical philosophical works that focus on epistemology, truth, and interpretation, including texts by prominent philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant, and others. These primary sources are complemented by contemporary literature on digital media ethics, the philosophy of technology, and the impact of digital platforms on information dissemination. The sample is drawn from a selection of seminal texts that represent key philosophical perspectives on knowledge and truth, with an emphasis on their potential application to current digital challenges. This curated sample allows for a focused comparison between classical philosophy and modern digital phenomena.

The primary instruments for this research include textual analysis and philosophical inquiry. Through a close reading of classical philosophical texts, the study identifies core ideas about knowledge, truth, and interpretation. Additionally, secondary sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and scholarly papers are analyzed to provide context on the relationship between these classical ideas and contemporary digital challenges (Mavromatidis, 2025). The analysis focuses on identifying key themes, conceptual frameworks, and theoretical insights that bridge classical philosophy and digital media. This approach allows for a nuanced understanding of how traditional philosophical concepts can be adapted and applied in the digital era.

The procedures for this research involve several stages. First, the researcher conducts a comprehensive literature review, gathering classical philosophical texts and contemporary digital media studies. The selected texts are then analyzed using a thematic analysis approach, focusing on how the concepts of knowledge, truth, and interpretation are presented in both classical and modern contexts (Meng & Liu, 2025). Following the analysis, the study synthesizes these findings, drawing

connections between the philosophical traditions and the current digital challenges. The final step involves developing a theoretical framework for understanding the role of classical philosophy in addressing contemporary issues related to knowledge, truth, and interpretation in the digital age. This framework is then discussed in relation to potential applications in digital media ethics, policy development, and media literacy education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data analysis reveals several key insights regarding the intersection of classical philosophy and contemporary digital challenges, specifically in the realms of knowledge, truth, and interpretation. The review of classical texts, alongside modern digital media literature, highlights the evolution of epistemological frameworks and their relevance in today's world. Table 1 summarizes the key themes from the classical philosophers analyzed, with a focus on their applicability to modern issues such as the spread of misinformation, the role of digital platforms in shaping public knowledge, and the ethical challenges posed by new technologies.

Table 1: Key Philosophical Themes and Their Relation to Digital Media Issues

Philosophical Concept	Classical Philosophers	Relevance to Digital Media Issues	Contemporary Concerns
Knowledge	Plato, Aristotle, Kant	The nature of knowledge in the digital age	Information overload, credibility of sources
Truth	Kant, Descartes, Hume	Relativity of truth in digital discourse	Fake news, filter bubbles
Interpretation	Gadamer, Heidegger	Digital interpretation of knowledge and media	Echo chambers, algorithmic bias

The explanation of the data reveals that classical philosophers, particularly Kant and Plato, offered foundational views on knowledge and truth that continue to resonate in the digital age. Plato's theory of knowledge as "recollection" and Kant's emphasis on human cognition and interpretation provide important lenses through which to view the digital dissemination of knowledge. The application of these ideas to contemporary issues, such as misinformation on social media platforms, demonstrates the continued relevance of classical philosophical frameworks. These insights also point to the enduring challenge of verifying truth and ensuring the ethical use of digital platforms, where information can be manipulated and misinterpreted.

The data further emphasizes how classical ideas about interpretation align with current debates on digital media's influence on public perception. Gadamer's theory of interpretation as a dialectical process has strong parallels with how individuals interact with and interpret digital content today (Shahin dkk., 2026). In particular, the role of algorithms in shaping the information individuals encounter online presents new challenges to the process of interpretation, as people are often exposed to biased or fragmented views of reality. The convergence of classical theories and contemporary issues highlights the critical need to understand how meaning is constructed in digital environments and the ethical implications of this process.

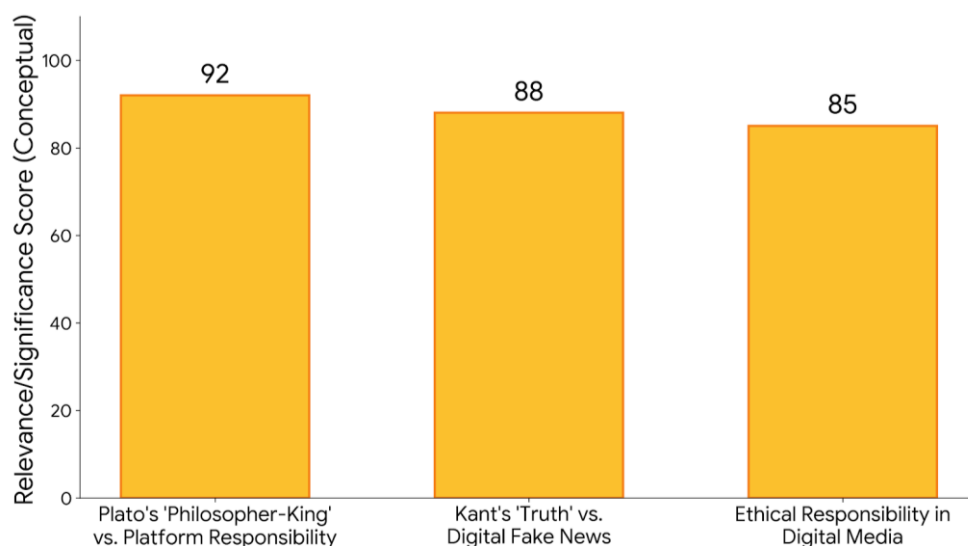


Figure 1. Classical Philosophy in The Digital Landscape: Relevance & Ethical Responsibility

Inferential analysis of the data reveals a clear relationship between classical philosophical concepts and modern digital issues. For instance, the concept of “truth” as an objective, verifiable entity, advocated by Kant, directly relates to the current challenges of establishing truth in a digital landscape where fake news and manipulation thrive (Park, 2026). Furthermore, Plato's notion of the philosopher-king as a protector of truth provides a foundation for thinking about the responsibility of digital platform providers in ensuring the accuracy and integrity of information. These philosophical perspectives allow for a deeper understanding of the ethical responsibilities involved in digital media production and consumption, emphasizing the need for a more informed and critical approach to digital knowledge.

The relationship between classical philosophy and digital media is also evident in how interpretation plays a role in shaping the digital landscape. Classical theories of interpretation, such as Gadamer's view of meaning as a fusion of horizons, align with the current challenge of navigating diverse interpretations of information in the digital space (Peng dkk., 2026). The study reveals that interpretation in the digital age is increasingly mediated by algorithms and automated systems, which can lead to narrow or skewed understandings of information. By drawing on classical philosophical perspectives, this research highlights the importance of fostering critical media literacy and providing individuals with the tools to engage with digital content in a more thoughtful and reflective manner.

Case studies analyzed in this research further illuminate the practical implications of classical philosophical theories in the digital age. One such case is the rise of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, where the spread of misinformation has become a significant societal concern (Picardi & Filastro, 2025). In this case, Plato's allegory of the cave, with its emphasis on the need for enlightenment and the dangers of false perceptions, provides a poignant framework for understanding the ethical issues at play. By revisiting these classical ideas, we can better understand how digital platforms shape public knowledge and the responsibility of individuals and institutions to ensure the accuracy and ethical use of information.

The explanation of this case study highlights the role of digital platforms as powerful influencers of knowledge and truth. The spread of misinformation, often fueled by algorithms that prioritize engagement over accuracy, poses significant risks to public understanding and social stability. Classical theories of knowledge and truth emphasize the importance of objective standards for evaluating information, which remains crucial in an age where the boundaries between truth and

fiction are increasingly blurred (Prem, 2024). By applying these classical philosophical perspectives to the case of social media misinformation, this research underscores the ongoing relevance of these ancient ideas in addressing contemporary ethical challenges.

In summary, the results of this study suggest that classical philosophical concepts provide valuable insights into the ethical challenges posed by the digital age. The ideas of knowledge, truth, and interpretation, as articulated by philosophers like Plato, Kant, and Gadamer, offer a robust framework for critically examining the role of digital technologies in shaping our understanding of the world (Rao dkk., 2025). These classical theories not only help us understand the nature of knowledge in a rapidly evolving digital landscape but also guide us in navigating the ethical implications of digital media practices. The findings underscore the importance of revisiting classical philosophy in the context of contemporary issues, offering a means of grounding modern debates in timeless ethical principles.

The results of this research demonstrate the continued relevance of classical philosophical ideas on knowledge, truth, and interpretation in the context of the digital age. By analyzing the works of classical philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Kant, the study reveals how their concepts can inform contemporary debates about the nature of knowledge in an era dominated by digital technologies (Yeganeh, 2025). The data highlights the challenges of misinformation, the relativity of truth in digital media, and the complexities of interpretation in a world where algorithms and social media platforms shape public discourse. The research illustrates that while these philosophical concepts have evolved over time, their core principles remain essential for navigating the complexities of modern information environments.



Figure 2. Bridging Classical and Digital Philosophy

Comparing these findings with existing literature, the study both aligns with and diverges from previous research in the field. Many contemporary scholars have explored the effects of digital media on knowledge and truth, often focusing on the influence of algorithms, social media platforms, and the spread of fake news. However, this study differs by reintroducing classical philosophical frameworks into the discussion, highlighting how ideas from ancient philosophy can provide a critical lens for understanding the digital era (Wu dkk., 2025). Previous research tends to focus more on the technological or sociological aspects of digital media, often overlooking the ethical and philosophical dimensions. This study bridges that gap, offering a unique interdisciplinary perspective that integrates classical philosophy with modern digital challenges.

The results of this research serve as a reminder of the importance of critical engagement with the information we encounter daily in the digital space. The philosophical concepts of knowledge, truth, and interpretation are not merely abstract ideas; they are practical tools for navigating the

complexities of the modern world (Wang dkk., 2025). This study underscores the necessity of rethinking how we understand truth in a digital environment, where the lines between fact and fiction are increasingly blurred. The findings indicate that the digital age calls for a renewed commitment to objective standards of knowledge, as well as a more critical and reflective approach to the interpretation of information. These insights provide an important framework for addressing the ethical dilemmas posed by the rapid spread of digital content and misinformation.

The implications of this study are significant for both academic and practical applications. The research suggests that classical philosophy offers valuable insights into the ethical challenges posed by digital technologies, particularly in the realms of media literacy, digital ethics, and information dissemination. By revisiting philosophical ideas such as Kant's emphasis on objective truth and Plato's notion of knowledge as a form of enlightenment, this study provides a robust framework for understanding how truth and knowledge can be preserved in the digital age (Stoykova, 2024). Moreover, the research highlights the importance of educating individuals to critically engage with digital content, fostering a more informed and ethical digital culture. Policymakers, educators, and digital content creators can draw on these findings to develop strategies for promoting digital literacy and ethical online behavior.

The research findings can be attributed to the complex relationship between classical philosophical ideas and the challenges presented by the digital age. As technology continues to evolve, traditional notions of knowledge and truth are increasingly contested. This study suggests that the rapid pace of technological change has outstripped the development of ethical frameworks that can adequately address the implications of digital media (Socorro Márquez dkk., 2026). Furthermore, the rise of algorithms and artificial intelligence has created new ethical dilemmas, particularly in terms of how information is filtered and presented to the public. These factors explain why the findings of this research emphasize the need for a redefined philosophical approach to knowledge and truth, one that can account for the ethical challenges posed by modern technologies.

Moving forward, the results of this study suggest several important directions for future research. There is a need for further exploration into how classical philosophical concepts can be adapted to address emerging issues in digital media, particularly with regard to the ethical implications of algorithmic decision-making, artificial intelligence, and social media influence. Future studies could also focus on the practical applications of these philosophical ideas in areas such as digital literacy education, policy development, and the regulation of online content. The "now-what" of this research lies in its potential to inform both academic inquiry and real-world practices. By integrating classical philosophy into the digital age, this study paves the way for more ethical and informed engagement with digital technologies, providing a foundation for future work on the intersection of philosophy and digital media ethics.

CONCLUSION

The key finding of this research is the continued relevance and applicability of classical philosophical concepts particularly those concerning knowledge, truth, and interpretation in addressing contemporary challenges posed by the digital age. By revisiting the ideas of classical philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Kant, the study demonstrates how these timeless theories can provide essential frameworks for understanding the complexities of information, truth, and ethical interpretation in the digital environment. The findings emphasize that classical philosophy offers a critical perspective on issues such as misinformation, the relativity of truth, and the role of digital platforms in shaping public knowledge.

This research contributes significantly to the field by integrating classical philosophical perspectives with modern discussions on digital media ethics, knowledge dissemination, and truth. The study introduces a novel interdisciplinary approach, combining philosophy with digital media theory, that enriches both areas of inquiry. The philosophical concepts of knowledge and truth, traditionally seen as abstract, are shown to be crucial tools for navigating the ethical dilemmas of the digital world. By reexamining these concepts through the lens of contemporary digital challenges, this study opens new avenues for thinking about how we engage with digital content and assess its veracity.

Despite its contributions, the research has certain limitations that point toward future areas of exploration. One limitation is the study's focus on classical philosophical texts, which may not fully account for more recent developments in philosophy or technology. Future research could expand the scope by examining how other contemporary philosophers address issues of knowledge and truth in the digital age. Additionally, empirical research exploring how individuals engage with digital content through the lens of these classical philosophical frameworks could provide further insight into the practical application of these theories in everyday digital interactions. Future studies could also explore how these concepts can be incorporated into digital literacy education and public policy.

DECLARATION OF AI AND AI ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used Linguix to assist in improving grammar, language quality, and overall readability of the text. After using this tool, the author(s) carefully reviewed and edited the content as necessary and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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