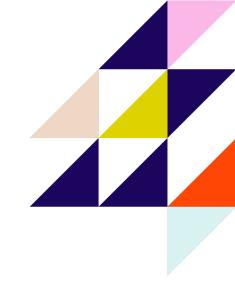
NEIL COLLARD

THE FUTURE OF SEARCH IN A WORLD OF GENERATIVE AI





January 2024

Hello



TODAY

- This is an updated version of the speech that I delivered at the Leicester Digital Live conference in October
- It covers the same areas but is updated with new information and updates that have occurred in the last 3 months.

Today

The Direction of Travel

• Generative AI in the search experience

Likely Implications

- Organic traffic
- Paid traffic

Tactics and Strategies

- Future focus areas
- Use of Generative AI tools

Me

- 25 years agency experience
 - Ten years growing Great State to 100 people digital product business
- Thinking about Data and AI in the context of agencies for the last 4 years
 - Back to school to learn python, data science and ML
 - Built machine learning based products
- Commentator on the impact of AI on the agency and digital marketing landscape

GYDA

- Grow Your Digital Agency
- Collection of agency growth experts
- Work with founders and owners of digital agencies
- Help them grow the agencies they want to run
- 100+ clients in over 30 countries
- Key Google partner delivering insight and training to Google Premier Partners
- Work as AI consultant / fractional AI Officer for agencies

Fact

Opinion

Guesswork

Fact

Opinion

Guesswork

1. Direction of Travel

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

- Context what is driving change
- Informed guesses about the near future
- What does Generative search look like

\$162bn

]

\$700bn - \$3tn

The status quo works for everyone*

"Democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time"

Winston Churchill

"Search engines are the worst way to access

information online except for all those other forms that

have been tried from time to time"

Neil Collard

Then chatGPT happened:

1. Generative AI in content creation

but the haystack keeps growing

The needle is the same size

Then chatGPT happened:

1. Generative AI in content creation

2. Generative AI in search results

Let clever tech do the work for me



I have 4 children and a dog and I am going to spend a day in leicester, can







Images

Videos

News

Books

Maps

Flights

Finance

About 14,600,000 results (0.69 seconds)

Results for Leicester





Day Out With The Kids

https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk > ... > Leicester

Best Animals Days Out In Leicester, Leicestershire

Discover the **top** 20 animals **days out** in **Leicester**, Leicestershire right now, including **the best** aquariums, **children's** farms and petting zoos near **you**.



Tripadvisor

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk > Attractions-g186333-Act...

Things to Do in Leicestershire with Kids

1. Charnwood Forest Alpacas \cdot 2. National Space Centre \cdot 3. Tropical Birdland \cdot 4. King Richard III Visitor Centre \cdot 5. Bradgate Park \cdot 6.



Tripadvisor

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk > Attractions-g186334-Act...

Things to Do in Leicester with Kids

Fun Things to Do in Leicester with Kids: Family-friendly activities and fun things to do. See

Tripadvisor's 189814 traveller reviews and ...

Missing: dog | Show results with: dog

recommended itinerary for a great family day out in Leicester:



Certainly! Leicester has plenty of family-friendly attractions and activities to offer. Here's a \Box \Box \Box

Morning:

- King Richard III Visitor Centre: Start your day by exploring the King Richard III Visitor
 Centre. It's an interactive museum that tells the story of King Richard III, whose remains
 were discovered in Leicester. The exhibits are engaging and informative for both kids and
 adults.
 Leicester Botanic Garden: After the visitor center, take a short walk to the University of
- Leicester Botanic Garden. It's a peaceful and beautiful place to explore, with a variety of plants and flowers. Kids can enjoy the open space and learn about different types of plants.

Lunch:

3. **Braunstone Park:** Head to Braunstone Park for a picnic lunch. This park has ample green space and a playground for the kids to run around and play. It's a great place to relax and enjoy some outdoor time.

Afternoon:

- 4. **New Walk Museum and Art Gallery:** In the afternoon, visit the New Walk Museum and Art Gallery. It's a family-friendly museum with a wide range of exhibits, including art, dinosaurs, and ancient Egyptian artifacts. The kids will love the dinosaur section.
- Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre: If your family enjoys outdoor activities, consider a visit to the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. They offer various outdoor adventures and activities like archery, climbing, and canoeing. It's a fantastic place for active families.

6 Laignetar's Abbay Parks Finish your day at Abbay Park, a beautiful park along the [

Late Afternoon:

- NE I have 4 children and a dog and I am going to spend a day in leicester, can you recommend a great family day out?
 - Certainly! Leicester has plenty of family-friendly attractions and activities to offer. Here's a \Box \Diamond \bigtriangledown recommended itinerary for a great family day out in Leicester:

Morning:

- King Richard III Visitor Centre: Start your day by exploring the King Richard III Visitor
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Afternoon:

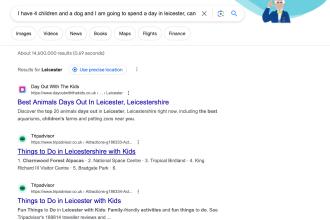
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Late Afternoon:

6. I airactar's Δhhav Park. Finish wour day at Δhhav Park, a haqutiful nark along the F



Missing: deg | Show results with: dog



Generative Al **is** going to change the search landscape

I have 4 children and a dog and I am going to spend a day in leicester, can you recommend a great family day out?

- Searching for: family day out in leicester
- Searching for: family day out in leicester with children
- Generating answers for you...

Sure! Leicester offers a variety of family-friendly activities that you and your children can enjoy. Here are some recommendations for a great family day out in Leicester:

- 1. King Richard III Visitor Centre: Visit the grave of an ancient king and learn about his life, how he came to power, and his untimely death on the battlefield of Bosworth. You can even stand on the glass floor where the King was hastily buried over 500 years ago 1.
- 2. National Space Centre: The UK's largest attraction dedicated to the wonders of space. Sit back in the Planetarium and enjoy the 360-degree show, blast off in a unique SIM ride, see the Rocket Tower, and picture yourself as an astronaut 1.
- 3. Bean Gaming Board Game Cafe: Enjoy a fun-filled day playing board games with your family 1.
- 4. Curious About Leicester: Embark on a self-guided treasure hunt exploring the city's landmarks and hidden gems 1.
- 5. Treetop Adventure Golf: Experience tropical-themed adventure golf with your family

Please note that availability and opening hours may vary, so it's a good idea to check their respective websites or contact them directly for the most up-to-date information.

I hope you and your family have a fantastic day in Leicester!

Learn more: 1. dayoutwiththekids.co.uk 2. toddlertrips.co.uk 3. tripadvisor.co.uk +1 more

2 of 10 •

What are some other attractions in Leicester?

Are there any parks or outdoor activities for children?

Make me amazed

Ask me anything...

3



0/2000

Provides references to content sources

GOOGLE QUANDARY







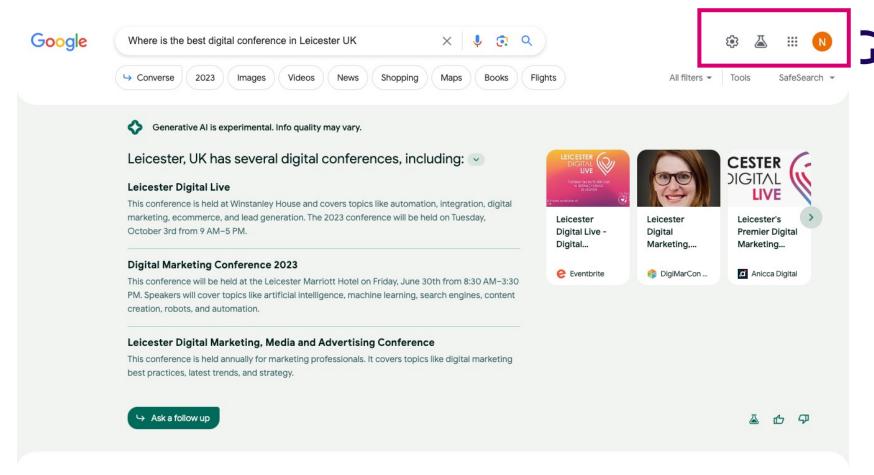


GOOGLE SGE

- Announced May 10th, launched 23rd
- Generates brand new content totally unique to the individual search
- Significant step forward from snippets
- Ability to ask follow up questions

GOOGLE SGE

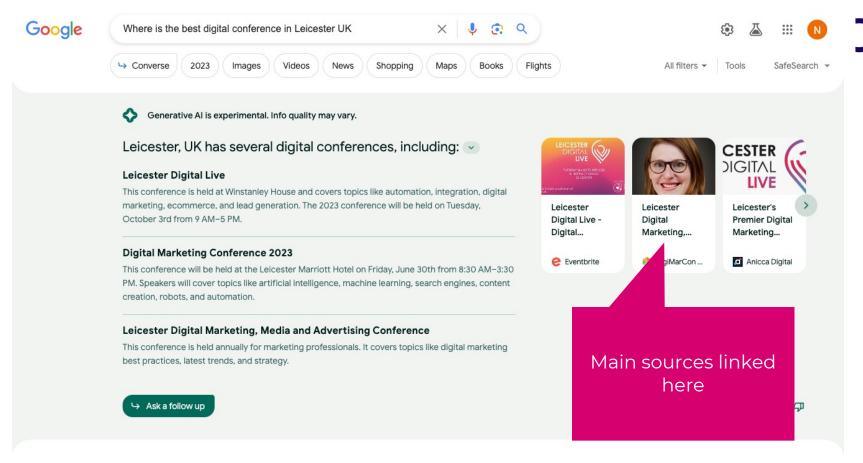
- Available as a trial in Google Labs (US only / English)
- August
 - Trial is extended to India and Japan / Hindi and Japanese)
- November
 - Further 120 markets in Latin and South America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia Pacific
 - Now supports Indonesian, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish
- As of today (Jan 2024) 8 months after launch:
 - Still only available in labs
 - Not available in EU (privacy & huge ad revenues)



Winstanley House

LEICESTERSHIRE'S PREMIER DIGITAL MARKETING CONFERENCE

This year we are pleased to be back in-person at the beautiful

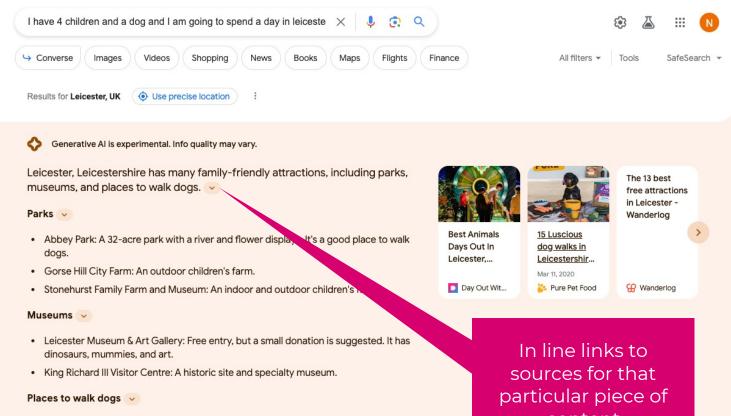


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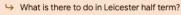




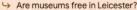
- · Abbey Park: A good place to walk dogs.
- · National Space Centre: A dog-friendly attraction.
- · Historic castles: Dog-friendly attractions.

content

Ask a follow up





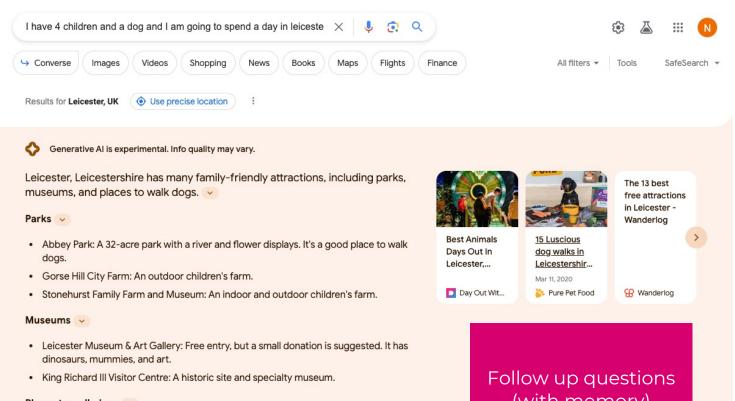












Places to walk dogs -

- · Abbey Park: A good place to walk dogs.
- · National Space Centre: A dog-friendly attraction.
- · Historic castles: Dog-friendly attractions.









- Abbey Park: A good place to walk dogs.
- National Space Centre: A dog-friendly attraction.
- · Historic castles: Dog-friendly attractions.

What is there to do in Leicester half term?

Showing results for What is there to do in Leicester half term with children and a dog



Generative AI is experimental. Info quality may vary.

Leicester has many pet-friendly places and activities, including:

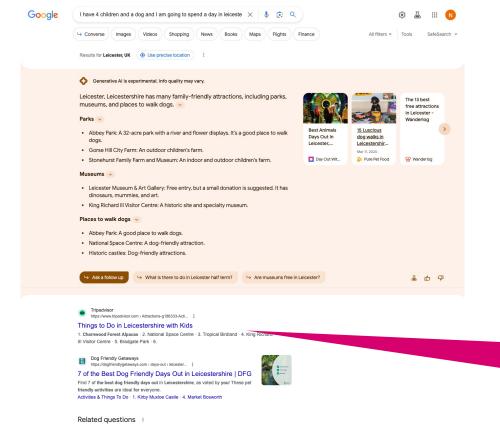
- Great Central Railway
- Belvoir Castle
- The Parcel Yard
- · The Old Plough
- Kirby Muxloe Castle
- CONKERS
- · Hanwell Wine Estate



Reset

→ Ask a follow up

>



Are museums free in Leicester? What is there to do in Leicester half term?

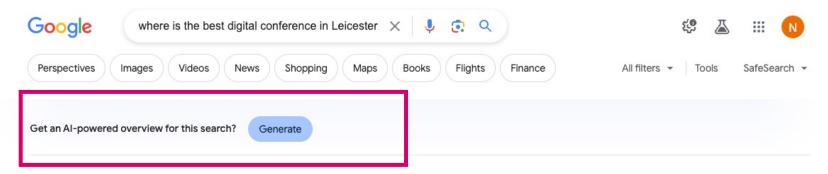
Day Out With The Kids

Day Out With The Kids
https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk > ... > Leicester Best Animals Days Out In Leicester, Leicestershire Discover the top 20 animals days out in Leicester, Leicestershire right now, including the best

aquariums, children's farms and petting zoos near you.

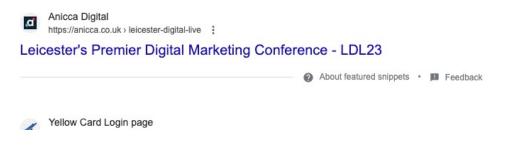
https://www.dayoutwiththakide.co.uk.v.aget_midlande

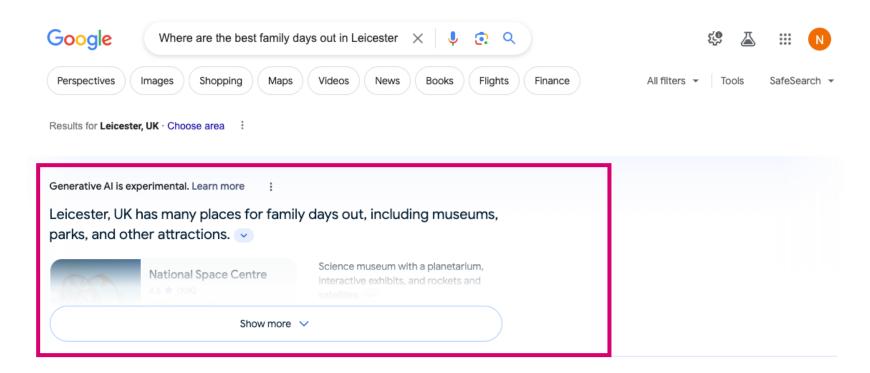
Traditional links appear after the SGE box



LEICESTERSHIRE'S PREMIER DIGITAL MARKETING CONFERENCE

This year we are pleased to be back in-person at the beautiful Winstanley House, in Braunstone, very near the M1/M69 junction. Leicester Digital Live will play host to: Top speakers from around the world.



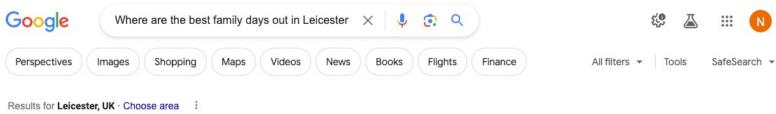


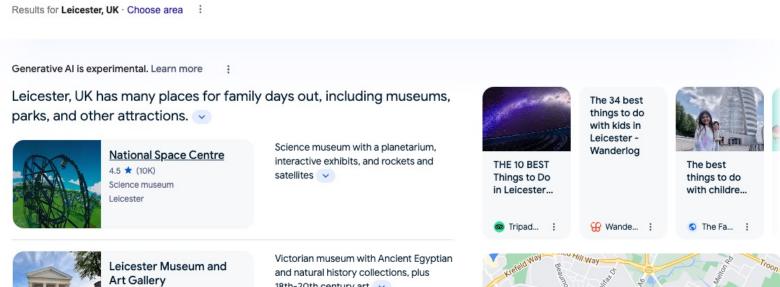
From sources across the web







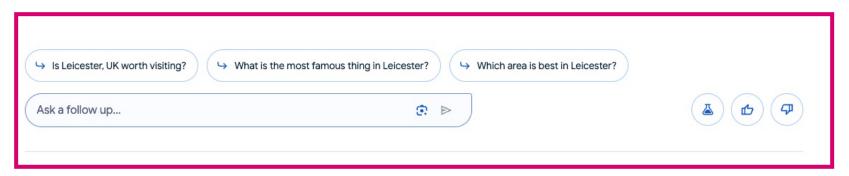




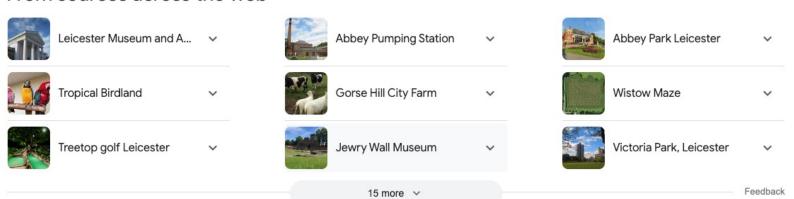


18th-20th century art V





From sources across the web





WHERE NEXT?

- Google are being very cautious
- Most commentators predicting roll out in early 2024 three months time
- Likely to have a bigger impact than Bert or any other update
 - Does not just impact rankings but use of rankings

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

- Change driven by improved user experience
- Huge implications for search businesses and advertisers
- Uncertainty in the near and mid-term

"Google care about stock prices and how often ads are clicked on. So I think we can expect even more integration before SGE is live."

Anon

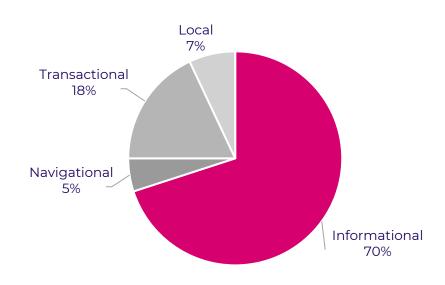


LIKELY IMPLICATIONS

- What we know so far
- Impact on organic traffic
- Impact on paid traffic

WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

- Biggest impact on informational searches
- Served in approx. 90% of searches
- From Google SGE lead*:
 - Highest satisfaction: 18-24
 - Embrace use of follow up questions
 - Longer more conversational search terms
 - New queries Google has not seen before
 - Users are still able to find ads above or below the SGF box

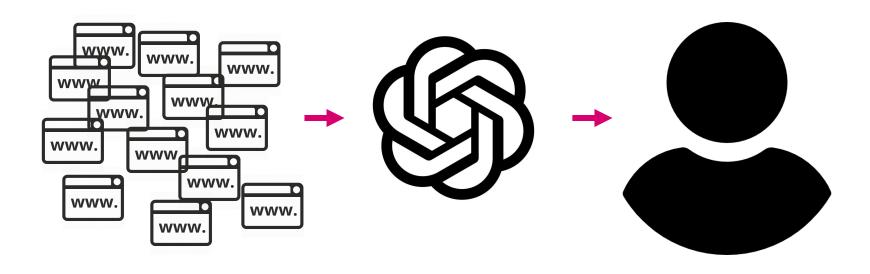


^{*}Hema Budaraju - Sr. Director of Product, Search Generative Experience, Google

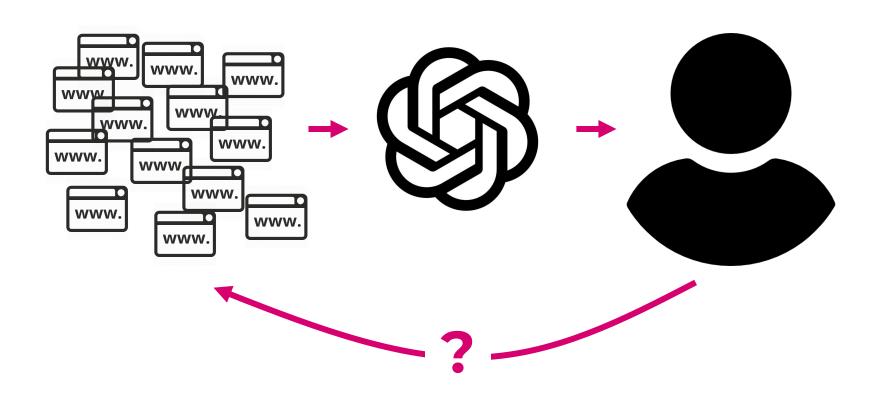
Prediction 1.

Generative search will lead to a fall in organic traffic

A FALL IN ORGANIC TRAFFIC



A FALL IN ORGANIC TRAFFIC



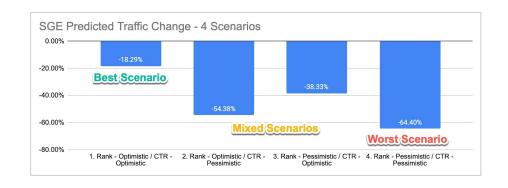


EARLY EVIDENCE

SGE Impact Model by Search Engine Land

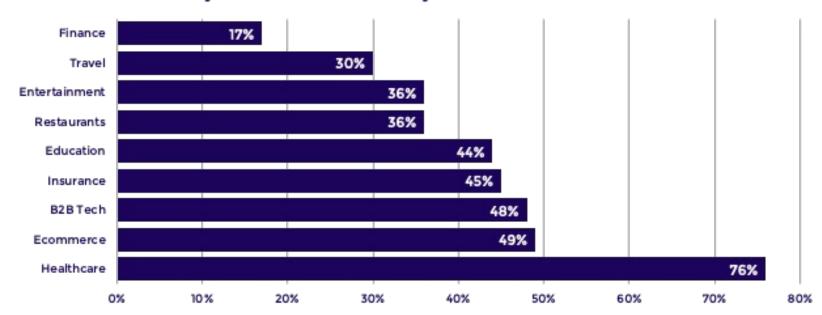
- Early attempt to create an impact model
- 23 sites in tech sector
 - 1,000 300,000 monthly visits
- Open-source model available

- 18% 64% drop in organic traffic
- Although one site increased traffic by >200%



https://searchengineland.com/how-google-sge-will-impact-your-traffic-and-3-sge-recovery-case-studies-431430

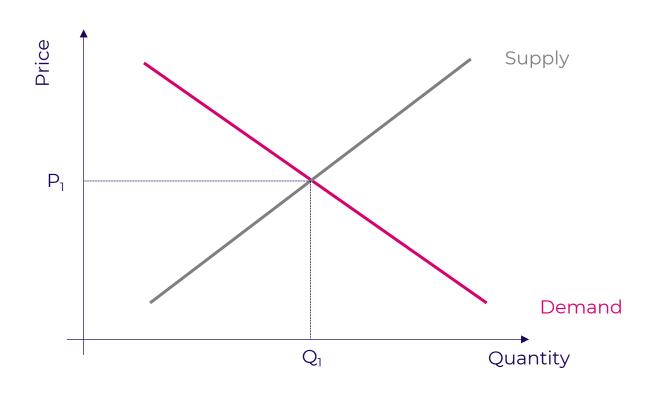
Percentage of queries that were impacted by SGE Analysis of "thousands of keywords across 9 industries"



Prediction 2.

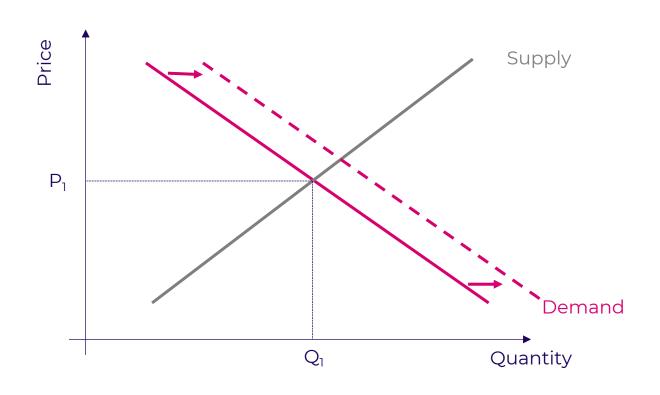
Paid traffic will get more expensive

PAID TRAFFIC WILL GET MORE EXPENSIVE



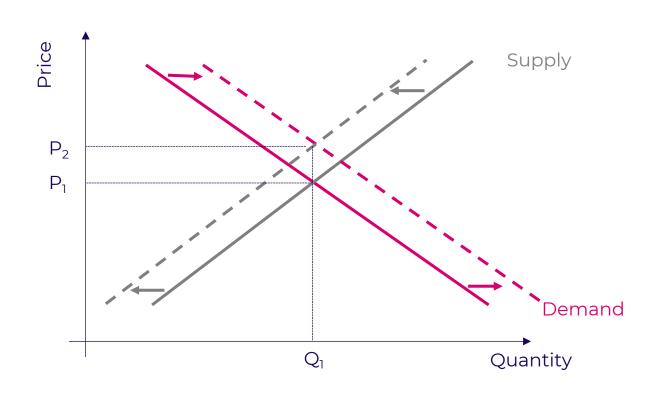


PAID TRAFFIC WILL GET MORE EXPENSIVE





PAID TRAFFIC WILL GET MORE EXPENSIVE





TACTICS AND STRATEGIES

- Prepare for change
- Four tactics for improved ranking



PREPARE FOR CHANGE

- Change can always be an opportunity
- Invest the time now
 - Get your team familiar with Google SGE
 - Can Bing be a test bed?
 - Explore SGE impact model
 - Monitor your keywords in live SGE environment
- Goal setting and KPIs against a rapidly changing background will be challenging

Tactic 1.

Good practice is good practice

GOOD PRACTICE IS GOOD PRACTICE

- SEO good practice remains good practice in SGE world
- EEAT will continue to carry great weight
- The goal becomes citations in the SGE box
 - Effectively top 3 ranking
 - Although traffic might not reflect this
- Original high-quality content likely to have greater impact

J

Tactic 2.

Optimise for longer more specific search terms

LONGER MORE SPECIFIC SEARCH TERMS

- Content should develop beyond the commodity information to provide full value
- Obsess about the conversational
- Evidence that Google is quoting word-for-word responses to complex questions
 - "Which is faster the Ryzen 7 7800X3D or the Core i9-13900K [CPU]" direct quote from content: https://www.tomshardware.com/news/google-sge-break-internet
- Opportunity to achieve wins within the model citations in SGE box are often not from top 10 organic results
 - Witness some clients seeing an uplift in organic traffic

Tactic 3.

The importance of user intent

USER INTENT

- User intent will have a greater impact
 - Accelerating the journey from keyword to intent
- Fierce competition though
- Al tools become minimum entry points
 - Discover user intent
 - Organise and create content at scale

Tactic 4.

Use Generative Al

USE GENERATIVE AI

- Google care about EEAT not whether created with AI
- Use of generative AI is now an entry point
 - To identify the highest value content
 - Create the content at scale
 - Personalisation and context permutations
- Retain human oversight (for EEAT)

TACTICS AND STRATEGIES

Brace for change

Tactic 1: Good practice is good practice

Tactic 2: Optimise for longer more specific search terms

Tactic 3: The importance of user intent

Tactic 4: Use of Generative AI tools



IN SUMMARY

- SGE shaping up to be biggest Google update ever?
- The stakes are high
 - For Google
 - The economy that relies on Google
- Brace for impact
- Opportunity to emerge on top

SILVER LINING

- Google needs content creators and so needs to reward content creators – symbiotic relationship
- Valuable content is still valuable content
- There can be first mover advantage

FURTHER READING

- https://www.vertical-leap.uk/blog/how-much-will-googles-new-search-generative-experienceaffect-organictraffic/#:~:text=When%20is%20SGE%20rolling%20out,between%20January%20and%20March%20 2024.
- https://searchengineland.com/how-google-sge-will-impact-your-traffic-and-3-sge-recovery-casestudies-431430
- https://www.mediapost.com/publications/article/392750/google-sge-to-impact-40b-annually-in-ad-revenue.html
- https://www.propellermediaworks.com/blog/what-is-google-sge-how-it-will-impact-searchtraffic/

Questions / Applause / Abuse?