

# Recognition Is Not Verification

A note on the difference between having an answer and having verified knowledge.

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Years ago, I looked up who Banksy was.

I didn't spend long.

Maybe 10 minutes.

I found a name.

I didn't check where it came from.

I didn't know if it was true.

But I had an answer.

Recently, I saw a Reuters investigation.

They spent months.

Journalists.

Sources.

Legal review.

They published a name.

It was the same one.

The result was identical.

The knowledge was not.

What I had was recognition.

What they had was verification.

From the inside, it feels the same.

It isn't.

This shows up everywhere.

People "know" things because they saw a headline.

People "understand" things because they heard it once.

People "follow" something without ever checking it.

Having an answer is not the same as knowing something.

But it feels like it is.

That's the problem.

I'm not sure where the line is.

I'm not sure how often I cross it.

Probably more than I think.

Status: observed, not verified.

— Dennis Hedegreen, trying to see the structure