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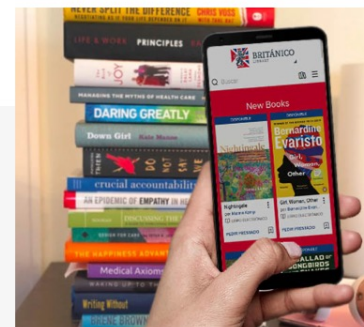
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25/02/2023 News

## Shooting lobby tighten shotguns

Steven Morris

The powerful UK shooting and countryside lobby has vowed to fight demands to tighten the rules around shotgun ownership that followed the conclusions of the Plymouth shooting inquiry.

Organisations that promote shooting and other countryside pursuits are planning urgent meetings with UK ministers, arguing many people would be "regulated or priced out" of the activity and may even be tempted to keep guns without a licence.

The biggest shooting organisation in the UK, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), is leading the opposition against a key reform wanted by victims' families, police chiefs, the police watchdog and anti-gun campaigners.

The BASC said making it as difficult to obtain a certificate for a shotgun as one for a rifle would place an "unmanageable workload on police firearms licensing teams, many of whom are already failing to keep up."

An inquest jury concluded Devon and Cornwall police made "catastrophic" errors when it gave Laura Davison a licence for a shotgun he used to kill his mother, a three-year-old girl and three other people.

There are a number of gun licensing issues, including the police and the BASC, which are currently being discussed by the government.

## Three-day strike called by junior doctors from 13 March

Andrew Gregory  
Health editor

Tens of thousands of junior doctors in England will strike for three days from 13 March in an increasingly bitter row over pay, morale and staffing levels, the British Medical Association has announced.

In only the second such action in the 74-year history of the NHS, junior doctors will strike for 72 hours continuously after 98% of those who voted favoured strike action.

Junior doctors who are members of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association will also strike for the first time in their union's history, on 15 March, joining BMA members on the third day of their action.

The NHS faces the grim prospect of having to cancel hundreds of thousands of operations and medical appointments, dealing recent progress made in tackling the huge care backlog.

## Wild adventures in Europe

Saturday

Wild adventures in Europe





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**Artificial intelligence**

# Everything you always wanted to know about AI - but were too baffled to ask

Alex Hern and Dan Milmo

**B**arely a day goes by without some new story about AI - artificial intelligence. The excitement about it is palpable - the possibilities, some say, are endless. Fears about it are spreading fast, too.

Yet, increasingly, there is a lot of assumed knowledge and understanding about AI - which can be bewildering for people who have not followed every twist and turn of the debate. So, the Guardian's technology editors, Dan Milmo and Alex Hern, are going back to basics - answering the questions that millions of readers may have too afraid to ask.

## So, what is artificial intelligence?

The term is almost as old as electronic computers themselves, coined back in 1955 by a team including the legendary Harvard computer scientist Marvin Minsky.

In some respects, it is already in our lives in ways you may not realise. The special effects in some films and voice assistants such as Amazon's Alexa all use simple forms of artificial intelligence.

In the current debate, AI has come to mean something else. It boils down to this: most old-school computers do what they are told. They follow instructions given to them in the form of code.

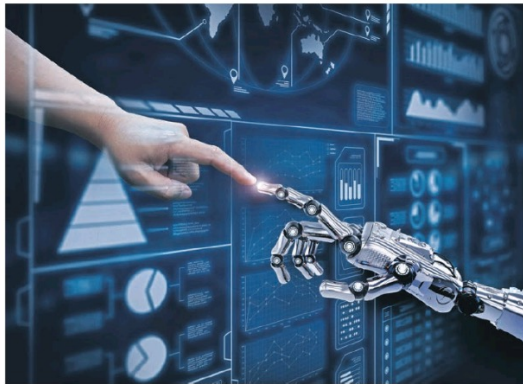
But if we want computers to solve more complex tasks, they need to do more than that. To be smarter, we are trying to train them how to learn in a way that imitates human behaviour.

Computers cannot be taught to think for themselves, but they can be taught how to analyse information and draw inferences from patterns within data sets.

And the more you give them - computer systems can now cope with truly vast amounts of information - the better they should get at it.

The most successful versions of "machine learning" in recent years have used a particular technique we think of as a "neural network" modelled on a very basic human brain.

**What are the types of AI?** With no strict definition, and the lure of dollars or fun of sci-fi, AI documents, almost complex than a cat, are often confused with some of the types of AI.



There is no easy categorisation of artificial intelligence and the field is growing so quickly that even at the cutting edge, new approaches are being uncovered every month.

Here are some of the main ones you might hear about:

**Reinforcement learning** Perhaps the most basic form of training there is, reinforcement learning involves giving feedback each time the system performs a task, so that it learns from doing things correctly. It can be a slow and expensive process, but for systems that interact with the real world, there is sometimes no better way.

**Large language models (LLMs)** This is one of the so-called "neural networks". Large language models are trained by pouring into them billions of words of everyday text, gathered from sources ranging from books to tweets and everything in between. The LLMs draw on all this material to predict words and sentences in certain contexts.

**Symbolic AI** There are even AI techniques that date to the past for inspiration. Symbolic AI is an approach that rejects the idea that a simple neural network is the best option, and tries to mix machine learning with more diligently structured facts about the world.

**What is a chatbot?** A chatbot draws on the AI we've been looking at with the large language models. A chatbot is trained on a vast amount of information culled from the Internet. It responds to text prompts with conversational-style responses. The most famous example is one called ChatGPT. It has been developed by OpenAI, a San Francisco-based company backed by Microsoft. Launched as just a simple website last November, it rapidly became a sensation, reaching more than 100 million users within two months.

The chatbot gives plausible-sounding - if sometimes inaccurate - answers to questions. It can also be used to generate text.

documents and, to the alarm of teachers, draft essays.

**Tell me more about how these chatbots work** The latest generation of chatbots, like ChatGPT, draw on astronomical amounts of material - pretty much the entire written output of humanity, or as much of it as their owners can acquire.

These systems then try to answer a deceptively simple question: given a piece of text, what comes next? If the input is "to be or not to be", the output is very likely to be "that is the question". If it is "The highest mountain in the world is", the next words will probably be "Mount Everest".

But the AI can also be more creative. If the input is a paragraph of vaguely Dickensian prose, the chatbot will continue in the same way, with the model writing its own ersatz short story in the style of the prompt.

If the input is a series of questions about the nature of intelligence, the output is likely to be a deluge of deepfake video, images, and audio, and unfortunately many of them will be in the context of racism," says Noah Glasziou, assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Bentley University in the US.

facts right, but then invent other details that sound like they should fit in biographies of that sort of person.

And it can be wrong-footed too: ask ChatGPT whether one pound of feathers weighs more than two pounds of steel, it will focus on the fact that the question looks like the classic trick question. It won't notice that the numbers have been changed.

Google's rival to ChatGPT, called Bard, had an embarrassing debut this month when a video demo of the chatbot showed it giving the wrong answer to a question about the James Webb space telescope. Which brings us to growing concern about the amount of misinformation online - and how AI is being used to generate it.

**What is deepfake?** Deepfake is the term for a sophisticated hoax that uses AI to create phony images, particularly of people. There are some noticeable amateurish examples, such as a fake Volodymyr Zelenskyy calling on his soldiers to lay down their weapons last year, but there are eerily plausible ones too.

In 2021 a TikTok account called DeepTom Cruise posted clips of a faux Tom Cruise playing golf and prat-falling around his house, created by AI. TV has released a sketch show comprised of celebrity deepfakes, including Stormy and Harry Kane, called Deep Fake Neighborhood.

In the audio world, a startup called ElevenLabs admitted its voice-creation platform had been used for "voice cloning music cases". This followed a report that it had been used to create deepfake audio versions of Emma Watson and Joe Rogan spouting abuse and other unacceptable material.

Expanding the use of deepfakes to disinformation and scams as the technology becomes more widely available, potential frauds include vaguely phony emails, which attempt to trick users into handing over data such as login details - produced at mass scale, and impersonation of friends or relatives.

"I strongly suspect there will soon be a deluge of deepfake video, images, and audio, and unfortunately many of them will be in the context of racism," says Noah Glasziou, assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Bentley University in the US.

**Is AI a threat to human life and social stability?** The dystopian fears about AI are usually represented by a clip from the Terminator, the Arnold Schwarzenegger film starring a near-indestructible AI-robot villain. Clips on social media of the

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latest robot machinations from Boston Dynamics, a US-based robotics company, are often accompanied by jokes comments about a looming machine takeover.

Elon Musk, a co-founder of OpenAI, has described the danger from AI as "much greater than the danger of nuclear warheads", while Bill Gates has raised concerns about AI's role in weapons systems. The Future of Life Institute, an organization researching existential threats to humanity, has warned of the potential for AI-powered swarms of killer drones, for instance.

More practically, there are also concerns that unseen glitches in AI programs will lead to unforeseen crises in, for instance, financial trading systems.

As a result of these fears, there are calls for a regulatory framework for AI, which is supported even by far libertarians like Musk, whose main concern is not "short-term stuff" like improved weaponry but "digital super intelligence".

Kai-Fu Lee, a former president of Google China and AI expert, told the Guardian that governments should take note of concerns among AI professionals about the military implications.

"Just as chemists spoke up about chemical weapons and biologists about biological weapons, I hope governments will start listening

## Device allows smartphones to send texts via satellite

The Defy Satellite Link gives any Android or iPhone an instant upgrade with the ability to send and receive text messages through satellite, solving the problem of mobile dead zones for emergencies and wilderness adventures.

Announced before the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona and produced by the British phone manufacturer Bullitt under the Motorola brand, the satellite link connects to a normal smartphone through Bluetooth and uses an app to send not only SOS messages but general two-way chat texts.

The lightweight, credit-card-sized puck will ship from about April, costing £99 on its own or £149 when bundled with 30 messages a month and an SOS assistance service from Focuspoint for the first year. It connects to geostationary satellites through a new MediaTek chip to send SMS to regular phones with replies sent using the cross-platform Bullitt Satellite Messenger app. A button on the side can also send an SOS alert with location without needing to connect to a smartphone.

Satellite phones have been available since the 1990s, typically at high cost for purchase and

use. Now, advancements in radio technologies have allowed integration of some basic satellite functions into traditional smartphones. Apple's iPhone 14 can send SOS messages through satellite, while the chip-maker Qualcomm recently announced a similar service would be available for high-end Android phones in the second half of 2023.

But both options require buying new phones at high cost and cannot be shared within a family - a market Bullitt hopes to capture with its cutting-edge device that brings down the cost of satellite services, making them more widely available.

"The Motorola Defy Satellite Link, combined with the Bullitt Satellite Messenger service, brings accessible and affordable satellite messaging to everybody's current smartphone," said Bullitt's co-founder Dave Floyd. "This is the definition of democratising satellite communications."

Alongside the puck, Bullitt also announced the Cat 575 rugged smartphone, which has the same satellite communications system built into it, costing £549. Samuel Gibbs

▼ Artificial intelligence computers are trained how to learn in a way that imitates human behaviour  
PHOTOGRAPH BY FRONIAMAHOTOGETTY

to AI scientists. It's probably impossible to stop it altogether. But there should be some ways to at least reduce or minimise the most egregious use."

## Will AI take our jobs?

In the short term some experts believe AI will enhance jobs rather than threaten them although even now there are obvious impacts: an app called Otter has made transcription a difficult profession to survive; Google Translate makes basic translation available to all.

According to a study published this week, AI could slash the amount of time people spend on household chores and caring, with robots able to perform about 39% of domestic tasks within a decade.

For now, the impact will be incremental, although it is clear white-collar jobs will be affected in the future. A leading UK law firm, Allen & Overy, is looking at integrating tools built on GPT into their operations, while publishers including BuzzFeed and the Daily Mirror owner, Reach, are looking to use the technology too.

"AI is certainly going to take some jobs. In just the same way that automation took jobs in factories in the late 1970s," says Michael Wooldridge, a professor of computer science at the University of Oxford.

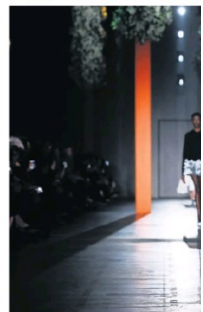
"But for most people, I think AI is just going to be another tool that they use in their working lives. In the same way they use web browsers, word processors, and email. In many cases they won't even realise they are using AI - it will be there in the background, working behind the scenes."

## If I want to try examples of AI, where should I look?

Microsoft's Bing Chat and OpenAI's ChatGPT are the two most advanced free chatbots on the market, but both are being overwhelmed by the weight of interest: Bing Chat has a long waitlist, which users can sign up for through the company's app on iOS and Android, while ChatGPT is occasionally offline for non-paying users.

To experiment with image generation, OpenAI's Dall-E 2 is free for a small number of images a month, while more advanced users can join the Midjourney beta through the chat app Discord.

Or you can use the wide array of apps already on your phone that use AI invisibly. From the translate apps built in to iOS and Android, through the search features in Google and Apple's Photos apps, to the "computational photography" which uses neural-network based image processing to touch-up photos as they're taken.



## Blandstan It's in the Milan swe sensible cl

Jess Cartner-Morley  
Milan

**B**landstan is the new grandstanding at Milan fashion week. At Gucci, the departure of the creative director Alessandro Michele, the ringmaster of modern maximalism, brought jeans, blazers and practical shoulder bags to the catwalk. With the new hire Salato de Sarno yet to arrive from his current post at Valentino, this collection was a group effort by the team left behind by Michele, and the theatrical flourishes of their former boss and mentor were still evident in the Smarties-coloured take-fake and microscopic diamante likit tops.

But there were strong hints of a swerve toward the sensible, in double-breasted trouser suits and classic beige trench coats. Handbags were sensibly sized rather than laudible-tiny loafers made sturdy with cresper soles. The venue, which was tricked out as an office foyer - with models arriving and leaving through banks of lifts - located these looks firmly in the real world. An army of high-profile Gucci ambassadors including the musicians ASAP Rocky and Florence Welch, and the actors Dakota Johnson and Julia Garner were drafted in to pack the office-reception style banquets, as a visual reminder that Gucci

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# Confused by AI?

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A guide to chatbots, deepfakes and more

Artificial Intelligence · Singularitarianism · Tech Trends · Machine Learning · Tech · Computer Science · Natural Language Processing

Alex Hern and Dan Milmo

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more complex tasks, they need to do more than that. To be smarter, we are trying to train them how to learn in a way that imitates human behaviour.

Computers cannot be taught to think for themselves, but they can be taught how to analyse information and draw inferences from patterns within data sets.

And the more you give them – computer systems can now cope with truly vast amounts of information – the better they should get at it.

The most successful versions of “machine learning” in recent years have used a system known as a “neural network”, which is modelled at a very simple level on how we think a brain works.

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What  
of AI

With no strict definition of the phrase, and the lure of billions of dollars of funding for anyone who sprinkles “AI” into pitch docu-

been called artificial intelligence by someone.

There is no easy categorisation of artificial intelligence and the field

essays.

is growing so quickly that even a the cutting edge, new approaches are being uncovered every month.

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# THE MANDALORIAN

FOR THE ACTORS ON THE SHOW, THE MANDALORIAN IS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER. AND, AS PEDRO PASCAL, KATEE SACKHOFF AND MORE TELL US, SEASON 3 HAS PUSHED THEM FURTHER THAN EVER...

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Pedro Pascal (and chums) gets to grip with his helmet again and travels the galaxy in the eagerly-awaited return of the Star Wars show that allows us to write sentences like “Pedro Pascal gets to

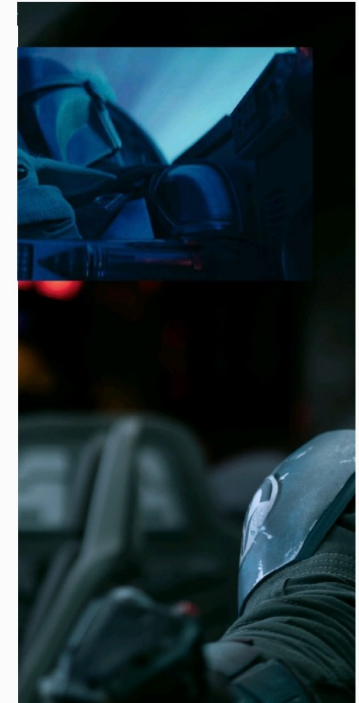


self... well, anywhere. Every day on the set of

The Mandalorian Season 3 is transformative. One minute you’re in your trailer, “doom-scrolling, listening to NPR [National Public



Radio] and the news and dissociating,” Pascal tells Empire. The next, you’re walking through the bustling capital of the volcanic planet Nevarro, thanks to the groundbreaking visual-effects technology of the Volume. “It’s almost like going into Space Mountain,” he says with childlike wonder. “This perpetually dark studio that gets lit



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**HUNG OUT WITH THE MANDALORIAN TEAM** The Mandalorian is famously a man of few words; luckily we managed to



**SPOKE TO JASON BLUM (AND FRIEND) ON ZOOM** M3GAN is the horror star du jour. Empire’s Alex Godfrey chatted to Blumhouse



**PHOTOGRAPHED OSCAR NOMINEE ANDREA RISEBOROUGH** Andrea Riseborough is having a moment. Very soon



**THE RANKING** Al Pacino. HOO-HAH!

**THE MANDALORIAN** Pedro Pascal (and chums) gets to grip with his helmet again and travels the galaxy in the eagerly-awaited return of the Star Wars show that allows us to write sentences like “Pedro Pascal gets to grip with his helmet” without alerting HR. This is the...

**JON FAVREAU AND DAVE FILONI** In conversation with the authors of all Din Djarin’s pain, the duo who are slowly annexing a corner of George Lucas’ cinematic sandpit. They have spoken. Quite a lot, as it turns out.

**GROGU** We want to see the baby. The inside story of the li'l green guy who first captured Werner Herzog’s heart, then everyone else’s, and became a macaron-eating, merchshifting,

**FAST X** Director Louis Leterrier tells us what to expect from the penultimate *Fast & Furious* movie. Namely, Dom Toretto is of road. Not surprising — a que

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**INFINITY POOL** Brandon Cronenberg on his new film *Infinity Pool* — a horror so hardcore it had go, bit much.”

**MABEL NORMAN** arguably the funn woman of the sile

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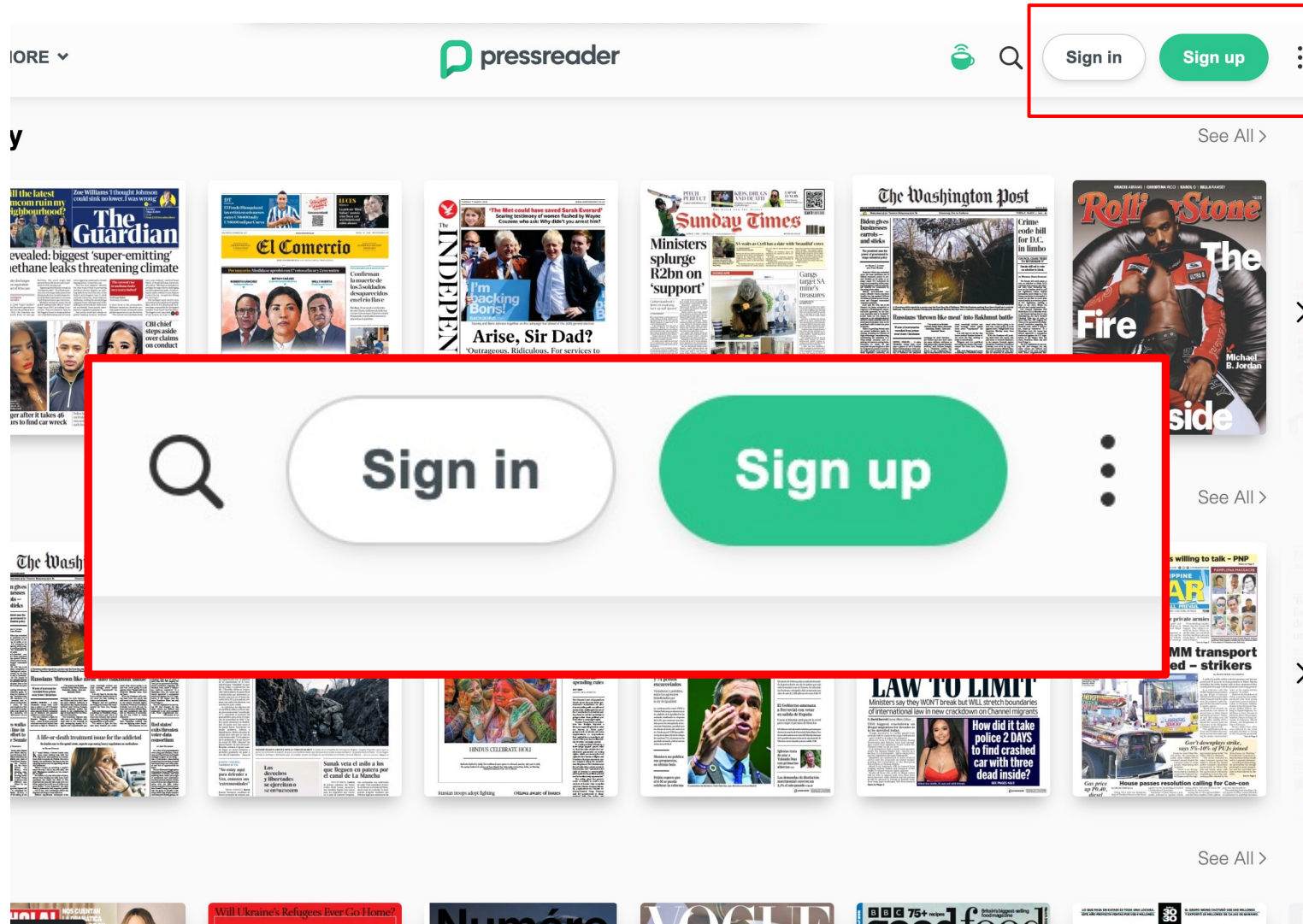
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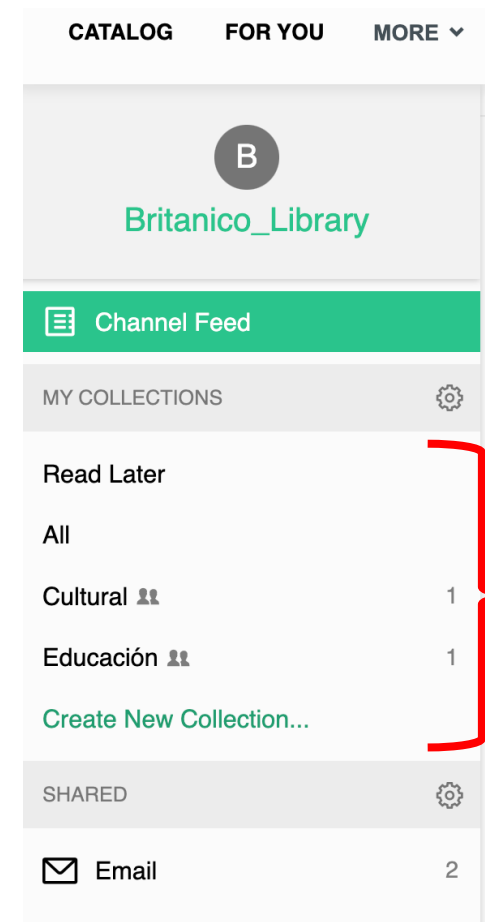
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