

# Research Library Reading List July 2026

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## Human Flourishing

**All items in this Reading List were sourced from the Globethics Repository Human Flourishing Collection. This collection was developed in support of the Global Ethics Forum 2026 (GEF 2026).**

**French translations produced with the assistance of Microsoft Copilot, July 2026.**

### Books

Arthur, James. 2021. *[A Christian Education in the Virtues: Character Formation and Human Flourishing](#)*. Routledge. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321320>

*Abstract: This work examines the connection between human nature and human flourishing. It draws on ancient and medieval sources to explore the formation of the person based on a Christian anthropology, emphasising the communal nature of the virtuous life and provides a richer approach to the question of contemporary character education. The book argues that the only way to understand and construct our character virtues is to have a clear picture of what is the purpose and meaning of human life. It highlights the importance of engaging with moral issues and makes the case that, for Christian educators, human flourishing is inseparable from God's active relationship to human beings. The book also explores a teleological approach to character education goals. To educate the whole person in the light of an all-embracing Christian worldview is challenged by secular and liberal ideology and is often seen as irrational to the modern mind.*

Dunn, Nick, Leon Cruickshank, Gemma Coupe, Editors. 2023. *[Flourish by Design](#)*. Routledge. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321332>

*Abstract: Featuring contributors from a diverse array of backgrounds and professions, this edited book explores the difference that design and design research can make for people, organisations, and the planet to prosper now and in the future. It offers a range of ideas and techniques through practical examples and ongoing projects showing how applied design research can respond to global challenges. Covering topics as diverse as artificial intelligence, bio-inspired materials, more-than-human design, sustainability, and urban acupuncture, it shares interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary design research not just to demonstrate what could be plausible in the near future but also to explain why it might be preferable.*

Las Heras, Mireia, Marc Grau Grau, Yasin Rofcanin, Editors. 2023. [\*Human Flourishing a Multidisciplinary Perspective on Neuroscience, Health, Organizations and Arts\*](#). Springer Cham. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321335>

*Abstract: This open access book presents a novel multidisciplinary perspective on the importance of human flourishing. The study of the good life or Eudaimonia has been a central concern at least since Aristotelian times. This responds to the common experience that we all seek happiness. Today, we are immersed in a new paradoxical boom, where the pursuit of happiness seems to permeate everything (books, media, organizations, talks), but at the same time, it is nowhere, or at least very difficult to achieve. In fact, it is not easy to even find a consensus regarding the meaning of the word happiness. Seligman (2011), one of the fathers of the positive psychology, confirmed that his original view the meaning he referred to was close to that of Aristotle. But, he recently confessed that he now detests the word happiness, since it is overused and has become almost meaningless. The aim of this open access book is to shed new light on human flourishing through the lenses of neurosciences and health, organizations, and arts. The novelty of this book is to offer a multi-disciplinary perspective on the importance of human flourishing in our lives. The book will examine further how different initiatives, policies and practices create opportunities for generating human flourishing.*

Miller, Ruth A. 2016. [\*Flourishing Thought: Democracy in an Age of Data Hoards\*](#). University of Michigan Press. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321333>

*Abstract: Challenging the posthumanist canon that celebrates the preeminence of matter, Ruth Miller, in Flourishing Thought contends that what nonhuman systems contribute to democracy is thought. Drawing on recent feminist theories of nonhuman life and politics, Miller shows that reproduction and flourishing are not antithetical to contemplation and sensitivity. After demonstrating that processes of life and processes of thought are indistinguishable, Miller finds that four menacing accumulations of matter and information—global surveillance, stored embryos, human clones, and reproductive trash—are politically productive rather than threats to democratic politics. As a consequence, she questions the usefulness of individual rights such as privacy and dignity, contests the value of the rational metaphysics underlying human-centered political participation, and reevaluates the gender relations that derive from this type of participation. Ultimately, in place of these human-centered structures, Miller posits a more meditative mode of democratic engagement. Miller's argument has shattering implications for the debates over the proper use and disposal of embryonic tissue, alarms about data gathering by the state and corporations, and other major ethical, social, and security issues.*

Muhigirwa Rusembuka, Ferdinand. 2026. *[Les deux voies du développement humain intégral selon Bernard Lonergan : anticipation dans Insight](#)*. Ecole de Formation Electorale en Afrique Centrale (EFEAC). Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321366>

*Abstract: Le développement humain intégral (DHI) dépasse la simple croissance économique et met au centre la promotion et la dignité de la personne humaine. Le DHI, selon Bernard Lonergan, est conçu comme un processus en quête de complémentarité et d'intégration entre la voie ascendante (créativité et innovation à travers la saisie de l'insight, du vrai, du réel, du bien) et la voie descendante (don et appropriation du divin Amour). Selon Bernard Lonergan, "il s'agit essentiellement d'un développement du sujet et dans le sujet ". Comme investigation philosophique, ce livre invite à penser toujours le DHI dans sa double dimension, horizontale et verticale, humanité et transcendance, pour mieux piloter la gouvernance économique, sociale, écologique et démocratique.*

Nnaji, Ejike Sylvester. 2019. *[Your Path to Success: 50 Ethical Principles](#)*. Catholic Institute for Development, Justice and Peace (CIDJAP). Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/170671>

*Abstract: This book motivates individuals towards self-development. This is a pre-requisite for success at any stage and in any sector of life. The book shows success as a sum of conscious decisions rather than of accidental results. It also aims to make decisions based on solid and sound ethical values and principles which are necessary for the attainment of the desired success. The fifty principles enlisted in this book are accompanied by inspirational quotes. The book offers a guide to students, professionals and all interested to take their life in their hand. The thoughts, values and secrets of past and present great men and women aim at inspiring and empowering you on your own values-driven path to success. The fifty principles enlisted, are accompanied by inspirational quotes. The book offers a guide to students, professionals and all interested to take their life in their hand. The thoughts, values and secrets of past and present great men and women aim at inspiring and empowering you on your own values-driven path to success.*

Noelani Arista, Sasha Costanza-Chock, Vafa Ghazavi, Suzanne Kite, Cathryn Klusmeier, Jason Edward Lewis, Archer Pechawis, Jaclyn Sawyer, Gary Zhexi Zhang, Snoweria Zhang. 2021. [\*Against Reduction: Designing a Human Future with Machines\*](#). The MIT Press. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321323>

*Abstract: What is human flourishing in an age of machine intelligence, when many claim that the world's most complex problems can be reduced to narrow technical questions. Against Reduction brings together a collection of provocative and illuminating essays that explore different ways of recognizing and addressing reduction in our approaches to artificial intelligence and, ultimately, to ourselves. Inspired by Joi Ito's widely read manifesto embracing the diversity and irreducibility of the world, the contributors offer compelling perspectives on resisting reduction: they draw on Indigenous epistemology to propose an extended "circle of relationships" that includes the nonhuman and robotic, reinterpret "Snow White" as a tale of AI with a smart mirror, expose the cisnormativity embedded in security protocol algorithms, map the networks of so-called noncommunicable diseases, and reflect on the limits of moral mathematics. Taken together, these essays argue for pushing back against reductive thinking and working toward broader, more inclusive solutions.*

Stahl, Bernd Carsten. 2021. [\*Artificial Intelligence for a Better Future: An Ecosystem Perspective on the Ethics of AI and Emerging Digital Technologies\*](#). Springer Cham. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321324>

*Abstract: This open access book proposes a novel approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethics. AI offers many advantages: better and faster medical diagnoses, improved business processes and efficiency, and the automation of boring work. But undesirable and ethically problematic consequences are possible too: biases and discrimination, breaches of privacy and security, and societal distortions such as unemployment, economic exploitation and weakened democratic processes. There is even a prospect, ultimately, of super-intelligent machines replacing humans. The key question, then, is: how can we benefit from AI while addressing its ethical problems? This book presents an innovative answer to the question by presenting a different perspective on AI and its ethical consequences. Instead of looking at individual AI techniques, applications or ethical issues, we can understand AI as a system of ecosystems, consisting of numerous interdependent technologies, applications and stakeholders. Developing this idea, the book explores how AI ecosystems can be shaped to foster human flourishing. Drawing on rich empirical insights and detailed conceptual analysis, it suggests practical measures to ensure that AI is used to make the world a better place.*

VanderWeele, Tyler J. 2024. *A Theology of Health: Wholeness and Human Flourishing*. University of Notre Dame Press. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321321>

*Abstract: While the health of the body can be defined by its functioning parts and systems, the health of the person is more complex. To flourish, we need to understand health in the context of God's intent. A Theology of Health presents a Christian understanding of the very concept of health, both the health of the body and the health of the person. Preeminent scholar Tyler J. VanderWeele argues that health can be understood as wholeness as intended by God and that sin—whether individual wrongdoing, societal injustice, or the fallenness of creation—causes ill health. VanderWeele explains that restoration and fulfillment of health is salvation, pointed toward in the life of Jesus Christ, to be lived out through the work of the Church, and for which we await final completion. VanderWeele also demonstrates the broader relevance and implications of his insights to all who seek to understand health, well-being, and the ultimate ends of human life. A Theology of Health is an essential theological exploration that seeks to promote health, healing, and flourishing of the whole person.*

Walters, Johann, and J. M. Vorster. 2021. *Prosperity Ethics: Habits and Virtues of Smart People in a Changing World*. AOSIS Publishing. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321341>

*Abstract: The paradigm-shift from modernism to post-modernism and the Fourth Industrial Revolution pose enormous challenges to universal moral codes and human life today. The thesis of this manuscript is that human prosperity, in the broad sense of human flourishing in this new environment, could be enhanced by re-defining and applying universal moral codes and practising related habits to guide people to prosper and flourish as dignified human beings. In a relevant and vigorous discourse, the book engages with issues regarding morality in an age of high technology. It explores ways in which moral agents can contribute to leading post-modernist people into an environment where humans can prosper and enjoy life in a changing world where many old moral directives are not feasible anymore. This scholarly book contributes to the specific scientific discourse on studies regarding the relevant discipline and offers a new pattern of reasoning in the field of social ethics about moral agency, aiming purposefully to address particular virtues and applicable habits beneficial for human prosperity and dignified life in a changing social environment.*

## Journal Articles

Balaguer, Álvaro, David Johnson, and Fiona Gatty. 2026. *Education for Human Flourishing in Adolescents : A Scoping Review*. *The Journal of Positive Psychology*, 21(3): 565–577. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321327>

*Abstract: The aim of this scoping review was to map and synthesize the literature on educational initiatives to promote human flourishing in adolescents across cultures. Web of science and Scopus databases were used to identify papers published 2004–2024, from which we selected 24 publications. Half of publications reported quantitative initiatives. Only three initiatives mentioned human flourishing as the approach of the intervention, and other three different initiatives found improvements in flourishing as a construct. Finally, some cross-cultural differences among flourishing initiatives were found. Future research using qualitative techniques to broaden our understanding of adolescents flourishing, and more consensus on a flourishing approach that based on culturally adapted initiatives is needed.*

Fastame, Maria Chiara, Cristina Manca, Ilaria Mulas, and Marilena Ruiu. 2024. *Psychosocial Correlates of Flourishing in the Late Lifespan*. *Aging Clinical and Experimental Research* 36 (68). Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321344>

*Abstract: Flourishing is a key dimension of psychological well-being that supports an active, purposeful, and meaningful life, fostering values, personal interests, and social ties. This study examined how satisfaction with family relations, resilience, metacognitive efficiency, and crystallized intelligence predict flourishing in cognitively healthy older adults and also explored gender differences. A sample of 180 community-dwelling adults aged 65–94 in Sardinia (Italy) completed self-ratings of flourishing, family satisfaction, resilience, and cognitive function, alongside objective tests of cognitive efficiency and vocabulary. Results showed that 30% of the variance in flourishing was explained by satisfaction with family ties, resilience, and metacognitive efficiency, with males reporting higher flourishing, stronger family satisfaction, and greater autonomy. Overall, emotional support, rewarding family relationships, the ability to cope with stress, and a positive perception of cognitive efficiency play a crucial role in promoting flourishing in late adulthood.*

Fock, Alissa, and Hans-Stefan Siller. 2025. [Generative Artificial Intelligence in Secondary STEM Education in the Light of Human Flourishing: A Scoping Literature Review](#). *International Journal of STEM Education* 12 (67). Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321334>

*Abstract: The scoping literature review reveals a focus on cognitive aspects of STEM education despite the need to broaden human capabilities in the light of generative AI. Ethical aspects are sidelined, although the SWOT analysis shows some significance of these issues, and learning about generative AI is largely neglected. Moreover, there is a lack of research on STEM-specific theoretical models and research is concentrated in the Global North, both of which might undermine an unbiased, culturally diverse development of new solutions for generative AI in secondary STEM education. The majority of current research examines AI-generated content instead of human participants, and publications focus on the performance and development of AI tools instead of their impact and application. This might hinder a human-centered approach to generative AI in secondary STEM education, potentially threatening human identity and meaning and thereby Human Flourishing.*

Kolandai, Komathi, Niki Harré. 2025. [Organisations that Promote Eco-Human Flourishing](#). *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 62. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321339>

*Abstract: Increasing emphasis on the interrelatedness of ecological sustainability and human wellbeing (eco-human flourishing) is evident in global initiatives such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, initiatives that give greater attention to Indigenous worldviews, and expanding notions of wellbeing in psychology. Our literature search on organisations that promote eco-human flourishing resulted in thirty relevant articles in 2023 or 2024. Organisations were either attempting or achieving eco-human flourishing through green infrastructure, green spaces, nature-based interventions, nature-integrated experiences, ecologically focused business operation models, transformational leadership, and curriculum (in the case of higher education). We offer two reasons for optimism that integrated eco-human flourishing goals will become more normalised among organisations in the near future – one, such integration appeals to the younger generation and two, the increasing scholarship on reciprocal human–nature relationships.*

Ngyah-Etchutambe, I. B., M. M. Mengstie, M. Z. Njungwa, Pamela Wadende. 2024. [Exploring Impediments to Human Flourishing across the Lifespan in Six African Countries](#). *Trends in Psychology*. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321330>

*Abstract: Human flourishing (HF) is fundamental in fostering development in every sector of human communities throughout the world. Understanding the concept of human flourishing is essential in identifying and limiting practices that may impede human's tendency to flourish. Most research on HF has been focused on the minority world and devoted to factors that foster it with minimal regard for the impediments and perspectives from the majority world. Based on this, the study aims to explore the impediments to human flourishing across the lifespan in Africa. Specifically, it examines factors that impede human flourishing in three age groups (children, adolescents, and adults). Empirical data were collected qualitatively through focus group discussion sessions and expert interviews with children, adolescents, and adults from communities in 6 African countries (Marachi, Eteso and Turkana of Kenya, the Sukuma of Tanzania, the Bantu and Nilo Hamites of Uganda, the Amhara of Ethiopia, the Nso and Nweh of Cameroon and the Akan of Ghana). After the thematic analysis, the findings revealed that; inevitable factors like death and other issues that can be improved on like poverty, conflict, selfishness, immoral behavior and ill health impede human flourishing across the life span. However, other impediments identified were age specific. Marriage challenges impeded flourishing among adult folks while lack of sufficient play time impeded children's flourishing. An intervention on coping strategies to deal with inevitable impeding factors to human flourishing like death and strategies to improve on all the other manageable impediments is vital for the enhancement of flourishing in Africa.*

Pawelski, James O. 2022. [The Positive Humanities: A Focus on Human Flourishing](#). *Daedalus* 151 (3): 206–221. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321342>

*Abstract: The Positive Humanities can be defined as the branch of learning concerned with culture in its relation to human flourishing. This new field advocates for a eudaimonic turn in the humanities, an explicit recognition of and commitment to human flourishing as a central theme of study and practical aim of the humanities. It holds that this eudaimonic turn can reconnect the humanities with their initial values and goals and provide a unifying and inspiring rationale for the humanities today, opening pathways for greater individual and collective flourishing in societies around the world. After exploring the historical roots and conceptual orientations of the Positive Humanities (which are inclusive of the arts), the author presents five recommendations for strengthening the focus of the humanities on human flourishing: emphasize 1) wisdom as much as knowledge, 2) collaboration as much as specialization, 3) the positive as much as the negative, 4) effective friction as much as increased efficiency, and 5) the flourishing of humans as much as the flourishing of the humanities.*

VanderWeele, Tyler J., Byron R. Johnson, Piotr T. Bialowolski, et al. 2025. [The Global Flourishing Study : Study Profile and Initial Results on Flourishing](https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321347). *Nature Mental Health* 3: 636–653. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321347>

*Abstract: The Global Flourishing Study is a longitudinal panel study of over 200,000 participants in 22 geographically and culturally diverse countries, spanning all six populated continents, with nationally representative sampling and intended annual survey data collection for 5 years to assess numerous aspects of flourishing and its possible determinants. The study is intended to expand our knowledge of the distribution and determinants of flourishing around the world. Relations between a composite flourishing index and numerous demographic characteristics are reported. Participants were also surveyed about their childhood experiences, which were analyzed to determine their associations with subsequent adult flourishing. Analyses are presented both across and within countries, and discussion is given as to how the demographic and childhood relationships vary by country and which patterns appear to be universal versus culturally specific. The Global Flourishing Study expands our knowledge of the distribution and determinants of well-being and provides foundational knowledge for the promotion of societal flourishing.*

## Reports

Gallup, Baylor University Institute for Studies and Religion, Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University, Center for Open Science. 2025. [The Global Flourishing Study: What Contributes to a Life Well-Lived?: Highlights from the Inaugural Wave of Data Collection](https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321315). Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321315>

*Abstract: The Global Flourishing Study (GFS) is a collaboration among researchers at the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard, Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion and Gallup to address limitations in current research on human flourishing. The study is a groundbreaking research initiative that aims to deepen our understanding of one of humanity's enduring questions: What contributes to a life well-lived? At the core of this study is the concept of flourishing — “the relative attainment of a state in which all aspects of a person's life are good, including the contexts in which that person lives.” (VanderWeele, T. J. (2017). To capture the complexity of this dynamic, the GFS measures flourishing across six core domains: happiness and life satisfaction, mental and physical health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, close social relationships, and financial and material stability. The initial wave of data collection included over 207,000 participants from 22 countries and Hong Kong (S.A.R. of China), representing a broad range of geographic regions, cultural backgrounds and economic development levels.*

## Web Resources

Human Flourishing Program Harvard University. 2026. [The Global Flourishing Study](https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321346). The Human Flourishing Program at the Institute of Quantitative Social Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321346>

*Abstract: The Global Flourishing Study (GFS) is a longitudinal research study being carried out in collaboration between scholars at the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard and Baylor's Institute for Studies of Religion, and in partnership with Gallup and the Center for Open Science. The study involves data collection for over 200,000 participants, from 22 geographically and culturally diverse countries, with nationally representative samples within each country, and with annual data collection on the same panel of individuals for five waves of data. The survey includes a rich set of questions on well-being along with demographic, social, economic, political, religious, personality, childhood, community, health and character-based questions. The panel includes individuals from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China (Hong Kong), Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries were selected in consultation with Gallup to maximize coverage of the world's population, to ensure geographic, cultural, and religious diversity, and in consideration of existing data collection infrastructure and feasibility. This \$43.4 million initiative is being supported by a consortium of funders. The study has the potential to transform and dramatically expand our understanding of human flourishing.*

Kousta, Stavroula, Editor. 2025. [Global Flourishing Study: Wave I: Nature Portfolio Special Collection](https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321317). Springer Nature. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321317>

*Abstract: The Global Flourishing Study is a longitudinal project gathering nationally representative, multidimensional well-being data from more than 200,000 people in 22 countries. This Springer Nature Special Collection of open access research papers (including the study's methodology) features the first wave of results, showcasing the value of tracking a rich set of indicators of human flourishing.*

## Preprints

Haaz, Ignace. 2019. *Élucidation de la distinction entre compréhension et explication et analyse de leurs implications épistémologiques chez Dilthey et de Jaspers*. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/170249>

*Abstract: La philosophie post-kantienne oscille entre deux alternatives : opposer nécessité et évidence, ou faire dériver l'une de l'autre. Une théorie fondée sur la nécessité permet une construction valide sans dépendre de l'évidence, mais ne rend pas compte de tout le réel, tandis qu'une dérivation à partir de l'expérience externe oppose expérience sensible et mise en forme intellectuelle. Dilthey propose plutôt de fonder la connaissance sur une expérience interne, conciliant évidence et nécessité, dans un espace intermédiaire entre subjectivité kantienne et réalisme naïf. Cette perspective met en lumière l'opposition entre explication et compréhension, en s'appuyant sur une critique du formalisme kantien et sur la distinction entre psychologie explicative et analytique-descriptive, ouvrant ainsi à deux méthodes scientifiques. Appliquée à la psychopathologie, elle renouvelle la question des limites de la connaissance humaine, en introduisant les concepts de compréhension statique et génétique, dans une perspective historique de la vie intérieure, tout en soulignant les limites de la compréhension chez Jaspers, liées à l'explication et à sa propre conception de la compréhension.*

## Video Resources

Gallup Organization. April 30, 2025. *The Global Flourishing Study: Exploring the Science and Meaning of Human Flourishing: Video*. Accessed June 26, 2026. URI: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/4321318>

*Abstract: This is a live broadcast originally aired on April 30, 2025. Leading researchers and global leaders gathered at Gallup's headquarters – alongside more than 4,000 virtual attendees – explored key insights from the inaugural wave of the Global Flourishing Study (GFS), one of the most ambitious efforts ever undertaken to understand how people live well around the world. This groundbreaking initiative is a collaboration among researchers at the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University, Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion, and Gallup. The GFS research team also partnered with the Center for Open Science (COS) to implement the principles of transparency, reproducibility, and research integrity. GFS seeks to uncover what truly contributes to a life well-lived. The first wave of data collection included responses from more than 207,000 participants across 22 countries and one territory, representing a wide range of cultural, geographic, and economic contexts. The GFS measures flourishing across six core domains: Happiness and life satisfaction, Mental and physical health, Meaning and purpose, Character and virtue, Close social relationships, and Financial and material stability. The study aims to deepen our understanding of one of humanity's most enduring questions: What contributes to a life well-lived? More information about the study is available at [www.globalflourishingstudy.com](http://www.globalflourishingstudy.com).*