

# **Personal Knowledge Management Devices: The Next Co-evolutionary Driver of Human Development?!**

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**Keywords:** Personal Knowledge Management (PKM), Knowledge Society, Knowledge Economy, Technological Co-evolutions, Collaboration, Creative Class, Knowledge Development, Memes, Business Genes, Innovation, Creativity Systems, Knowcations.

**Abstract.** The changing spheres of work demand innovative responses for the self-development of the growing creative class, but institutions seem to be unable to rethink themselves fast enough for these 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. The question arises: ‘How can the emerging knowledge societies and knowledge workers be better served?’ The paper looks at human development and argues that its progress is primarily due to successive co-evolutions. At each stage, civilization run into constraints which could only be overcome with the emergence of a further powerful co-evolution. The present barrier in need to be dealt with is the over-abundance of information which has replaced the information scarcity of the past. While some futurologists are seeing the answer in the singularity, migrating from biological to non-biological intelligence seems to be still for decades in the making. The paper, instead, argues for autonomous Personal Knowledge Management (PKM) devices to make the crucial next difference by providing the overdue support tools for the problems faced today and an enabling environment for the creative conversations needed tomorrow. With a prototype system pursuing this concept about to be converted into a viable commercial PKM system and related recent publications, the paper positions the innovative technology in the historic and future context and summarizes the concepts and prominent features.