

Proposal for X-Ray Emoji

Submitted by: Alijan Ozkiral and Christian Krenek

Date: May 3, 2019 -- Revised March 23, 2020

Emoji Name: X-RAY

Sort Order: In the MEDICAL category, after the STETHOSCOPE.

Reference Emoji: AMBULANCE, WRENCH

Key words: skeleton, radiogram, radiograph, x-ray image, refractometry, Röntgen radiation



Credit: Aphee Messer of Emojination. Free for use in the conjunction of this proposal.

This proposal was updated 3.22.2020 to include stats against ELEPHANT.

Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of a X-RAY emoji, otherwise known as a RADIOGRAPH. There are currently limited medical emojis, despite how revolutionary these medical diagnostic tools are. Countless lives have been saved since X-RAY invention. The nearest current emoji which has had a significant impact on saving lives is the STETHOSCOPE emoji, which is notably different than the X-RAY emoji currently being proposed.

Introduction

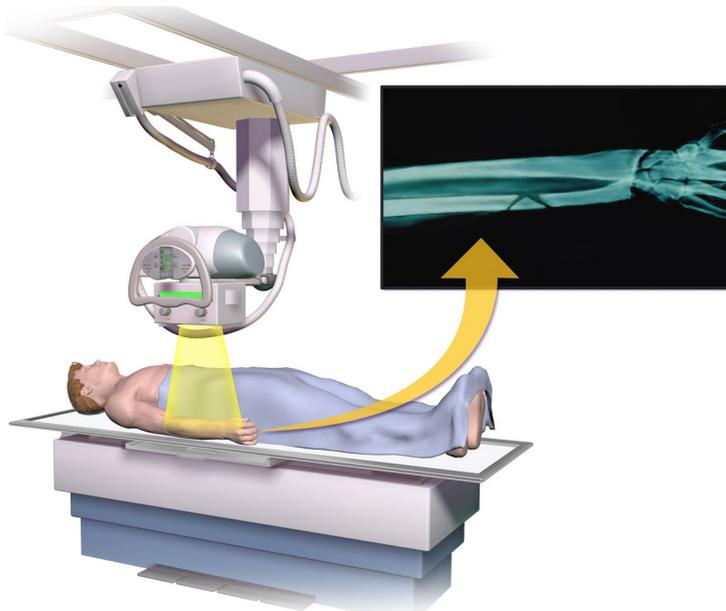
The X-Ray, a form of electromagnetic radiation, is crucial to the medical disciplines as an imaging and diagnostic tool for physical conditions inside the human body. X-Rays, as a wavelength, exist underneath visible light, as the wavelengths are shorter than that of UV rays, but longer than gamma rays.¹

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray>

The X-Ray, or X-Radiation, was discovered on November 8, 1895 by a German scientist named Wilhelm Röntgen.² Röntgen discovered the medical use of X-Rays when printed a picture of his wife's hand on a photographic plate. This photograph of his wife's hand was the first ever X-Ray produced. Upon seeing the picture, she said "I have seen my death."³ Röntgen received the first Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery, with the committee giving the honor "in recognition of the extraordinary services he has rendered by the discovery of the remarkable rays subsequently named after him."⁴

The global use of X-Rays continues to rise. As X-Rays are an imperative object to the field of medicine, they are employed frequently for diagnostic purposes. Up to 2010, 5 billion medical examinations using X-Rays as imaging tools have been conducted worldwide.⁵

Other than medicine, in the early 20th century, when X-Rays were in their adolescence, they were used widely as more than a medical tool. A testament to how X-Rays were seen as revolutionary, around 1925, X-Rays were used as a tool for proper shoe fittings.⁶ This practise was discontinued by the 1950s, as this was considered a "controlled" or "poor use" of the imaging tool.⁷



² <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1901/rontgen/biographical/>

³ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/i-have-seen-my-death-how-the-world-discovered-the-x-ray>

⁴ <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1901/summary/>

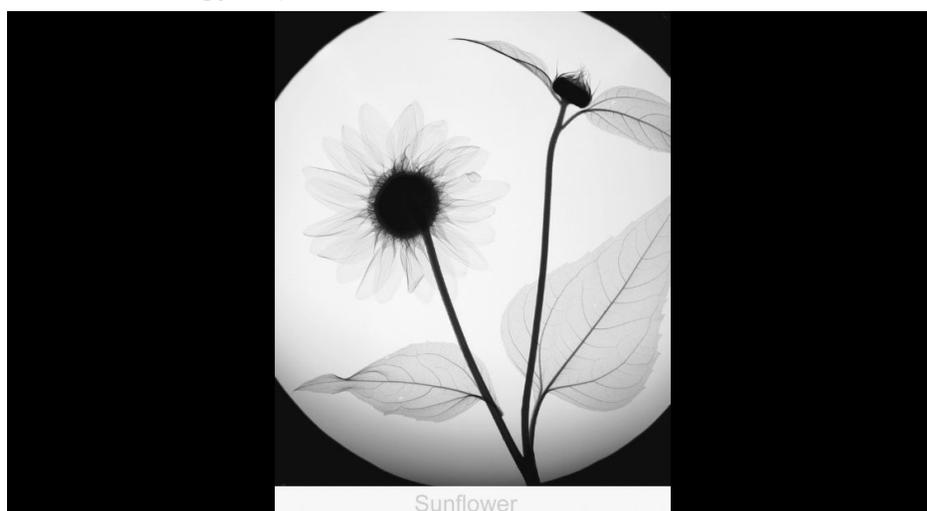
⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0009926010002369?via%3Dihub>

⁶ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/X-Ray.png>

⁷ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/130371085>

How an X-Ray works⁸

Because X-Rays were such a revolutionary discovery, their significance in popular culture has solidified over time, though interest in x-rays was immediate and widespread. Around the time of their origin, X-Ray Machines were popular at traveling fairs, where customers could see their insides and take home prints of their hands.⁹ Beginning in 1910 and existing to this day, fine artists would also create “floral radiography” or X-Rays of flowers and fauna, an example of which can be seen below.¹⁰ In modernity, X-Rays are used regularly in television medical dramas, such as *Casualty* and *Grey’s Anatomy*, to the point where *Grey’s Anatomy* has a fan webpage dedicated to the Radiology department of the series.¹¹



An X-Ray of a Sunflower¹²

Selection Factors – Inclusion

Compatibility

Not applicable.

⁸ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/X-Ray.png>

⁹

<https://peopleshistorynhs.org/encyclopaedia/x-rays-in-popular-culture-from-courting-skeletons-to-x-ray-eyes-1895-present/>

¹⁰ <https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/full/10.1148/rq.235035045>

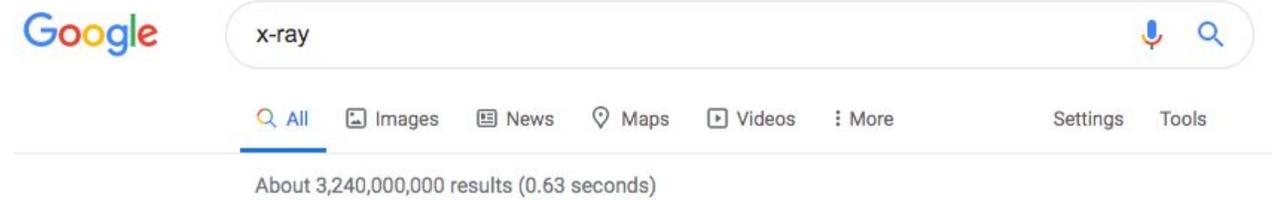
¹¹ <https://greysanatomy.fandom.com/wiki/Radiology>

¹² <http://images.rsna.org/index.html?doi=10.1148/rq.235035045&fig=F2>

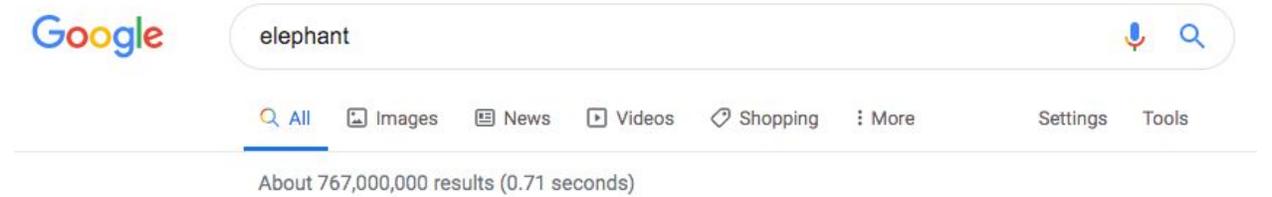
Expected Usage Level

Frequency

Google Search:

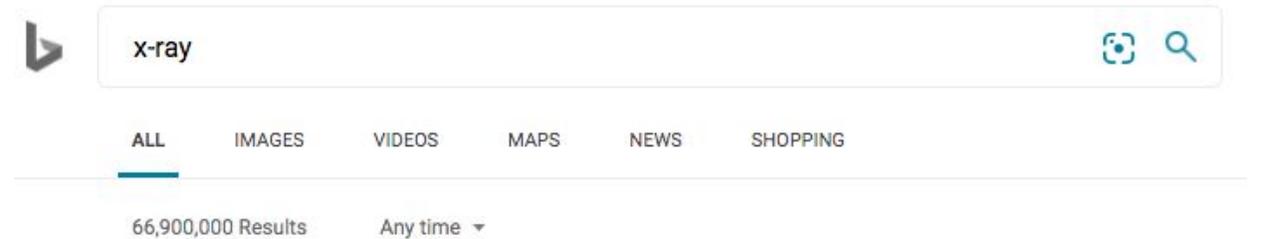


Google search interface for the query "x-ray". The search bar contains "x-ray" and a microphone icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: All, Images, News, Maps, Videos, More, Settings, and Tools. The search results show "About 3,240,000,000 results (0.63 seconds)".

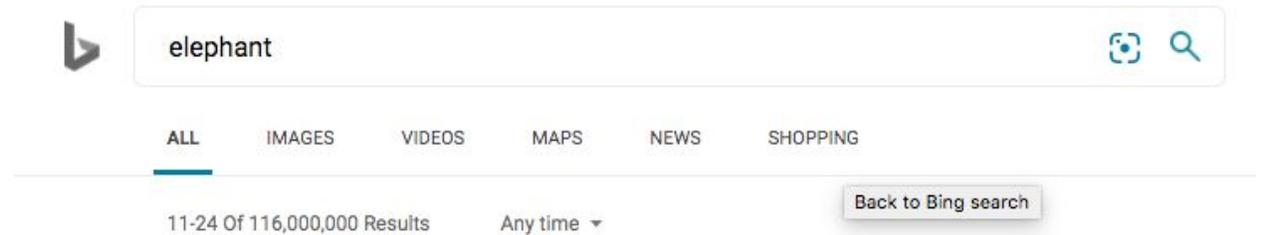


Google search interface for the query "elephant". The search bar contains "elephant" and a microphone icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: All, Images, News, Videos, Shopping, More, Settings, and Tools. The search results show "About 767,000,000 results (0.71 seconds)".

Bing Search:



Bing search interface for the query "x-ray". The search bar contains "x-ray" and a search icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: ALL, IMAGES, VIDEOS, MAPS, NEWS, SHOPPING. The search results show "66,900,000 Results" and "Any time" filter.



Bing search interface for the query "elephant". The search bar contains "elephant" and a search icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: ALL, IMAGES, VIDEOS, MAPS, NEWS, SHOPPING. The search results show "11-24 Of 116,000,000 Results" and "Any time" filter. A "Back to Bing search" button is visible.

Google Video Search:

Google  

[All](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Maps](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

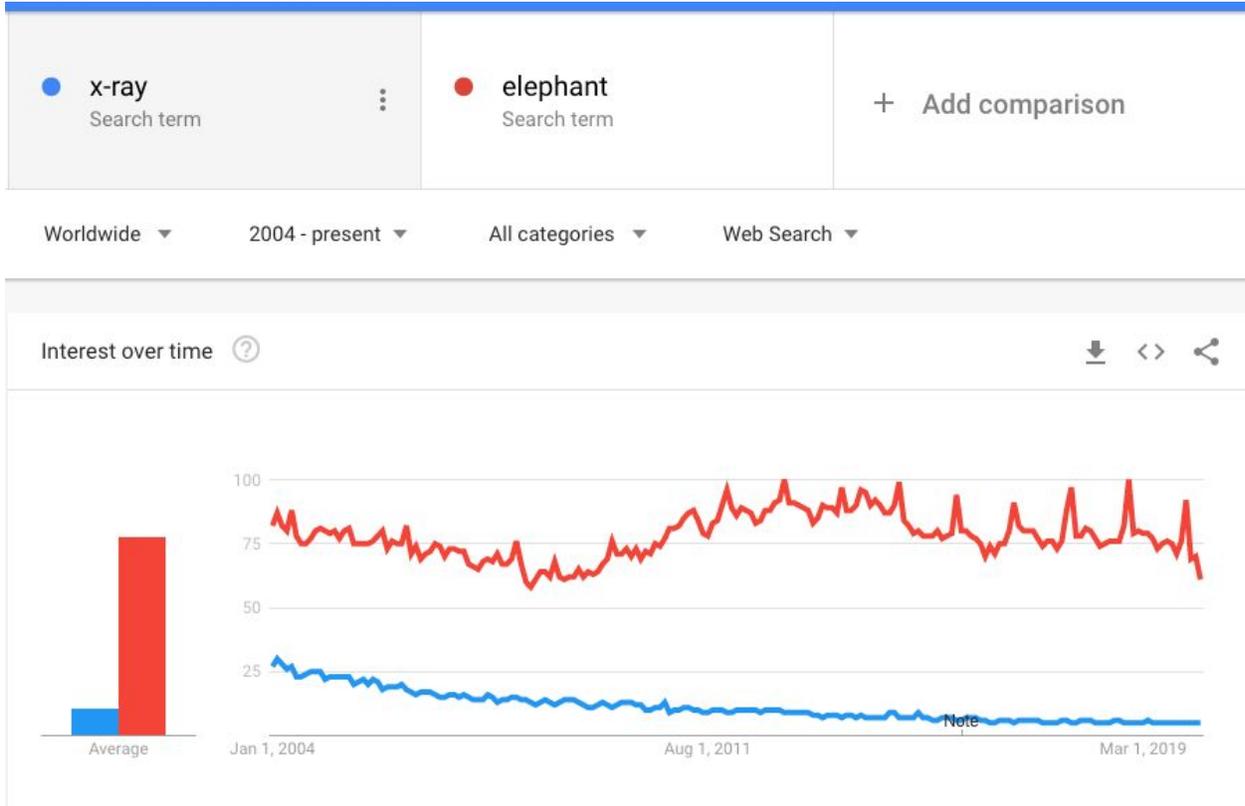
About 215,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)

Google  

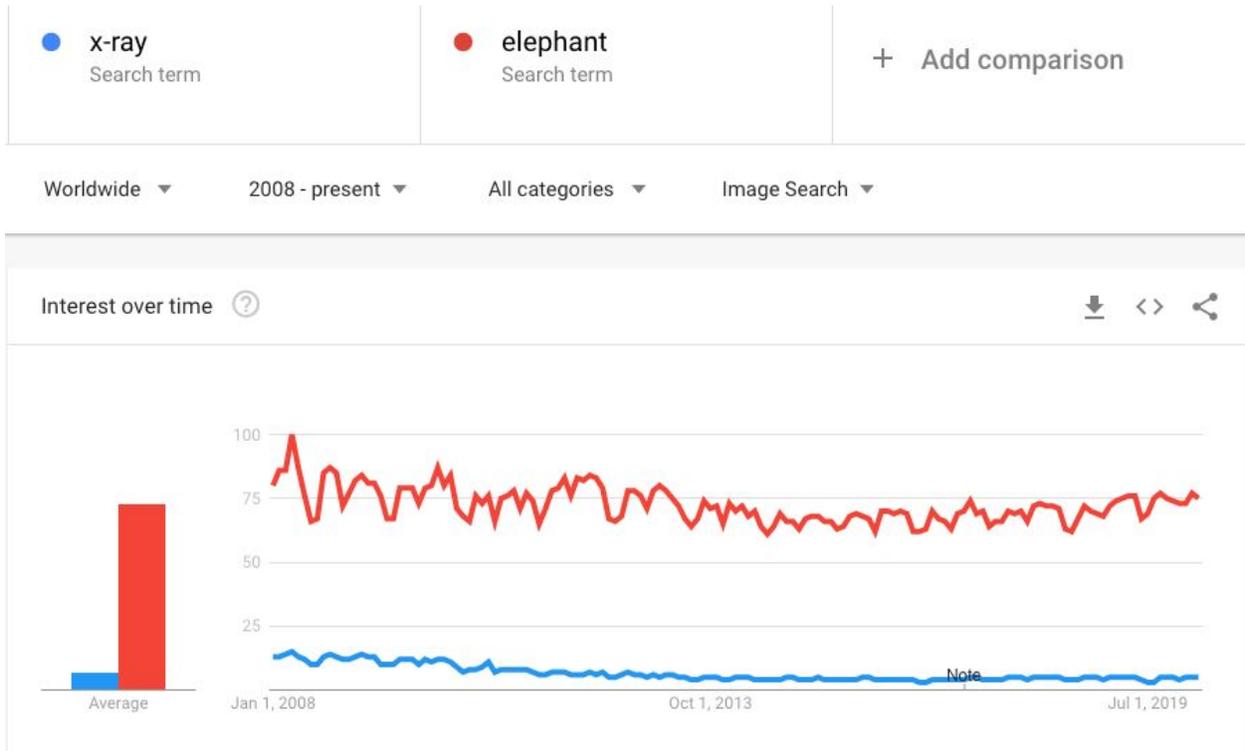
[All](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [Shopping](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 157,000,000 results (0.19 seconds)

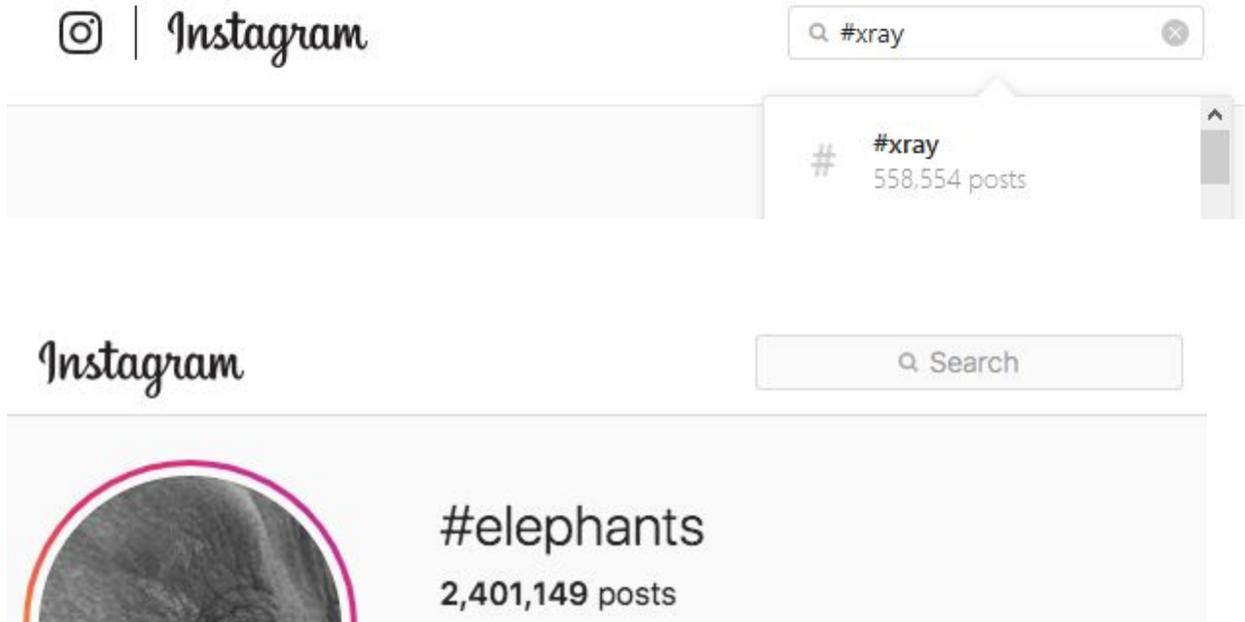
Google Trends: Web Search



Google Trends: Image Search

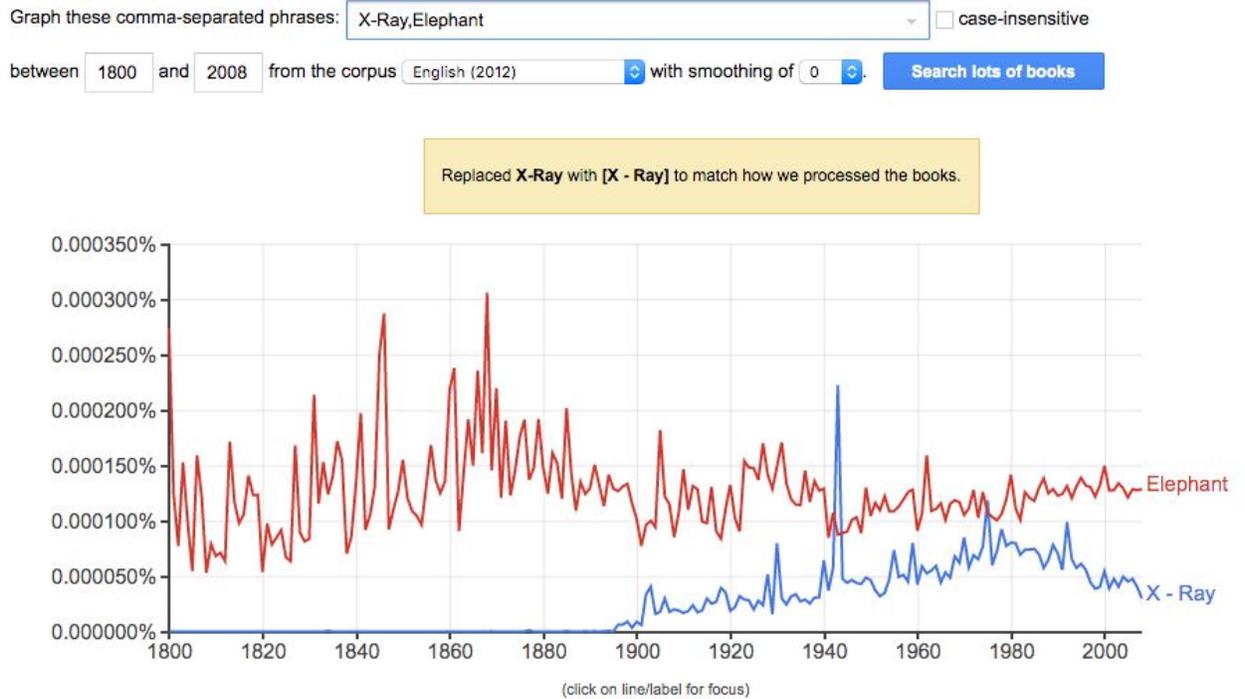


Instagram:



NGram Viewer:

Google Books Ngram Viewer



Multiple Usages

The X-RAY can also be used in other context to represent these jokes, concepts, or actions:

- “You can see right through me.”
- It can represent a skeleton
- Most likely, the X-Ray emoji will get more hits around Halloween
- Can be used with other medical emojis to represent profession, especially with the doctor emoji.

Use In Sequence

The X-RAY can be used in tandem with the DOCTOR to depict the radiology department in hospitals. It can also be used in sequence with a non-professional person emoji in order to showcase that one is going to get an X-Ray. Used with the JACK-O-LANTERN, the X-RAY can symbolize Halloween.

Breaking New Ground

Yes. The X-RAY is representative of a scientific breakthrough and one that has saved countless lives. The only other comparable emoji might be the STETHOSCOPE, which is reputable for detecting heart and lung conditions unobtrusively. The X-RAY has also earned the first Nobel Prize in Physics, thus honoring a sense of weight.

Image Distinctiveness

The X-RAY is unlike any other current emoji. It is very distinct in that it represents a rib cage and spinal cord. The blue coloration also makes the emoji very eye-catching and distinct.

Completeness

The X-RAY would help flesh out the MEDICAL category of emojis, which is currently limited to five emojis. As this is an important medical device for modernity, by including it in the emoji roster, the X-RAY will help complete a representative array of critical, life-saving devices.

Frequently Requested

On Twitter, there are numerous requests for an X-RAY. Notably, a future radiology technician laments an X-RAY, showcasing a lack of full representation in the professional world--specifically for critical hospital departments. The ranging years also

depicts a longstanding gap, and therefore user base, for the X-RAY.

- 
- The image shows a vertical list of four tweets from Twitter. Each tweet includes a profile picture, the user's name and handle, the date, the text of the tweet, and interaction icons (reply, retweet, like, and direct message). The tweets are as follows:
- ramsey @ramseykhoward** · 3 Jun 2015: I wish there was an **X-ray emoji**
 - Megan! @StopHAMMERTimee** · 29 Aug 2013: I was kinda hoping that there was an **X-ray emoji**.. But there isn't..
 - joie meyers @joaymemay** · 30 Jul 2014: I actually did help, though, too. 🤖 it's annoying that there's no **x-ray emoji**.
 - Mallory Boggs @MallyMonkey** · 11 Jul 2018: You guys... I am in love with **#xrays!** 🤖📺 (why isnt there an **x-ray #emoji** yet???) **#FutureRadTech**

@triciasalonga points out that the closest emojis to X-RAY are grossly dissimilar, representing death and pirates instead of a life-saving technology.



Tricia Salonga @triciasalonga · 4 Jun 2017

Radiology 🦴🦴 <--- closest **emoji** to an **x-ray** haha 😂😂



Selection Factors - Exclusion

Overly Specific

Though the X-RAY is a specific piece of technology, it is a universally recognizable device. It also represents a wide array of successes, whether technological or the success of the human body, and as such is not too niche for use.

Open Ended

The X-RAY is a recognizable piece of culture and medicine, and therefore one-of-a-kind in representation. Introducing an X-RAY opens doors for more medical emojis being introduced, but does not boast any similar standing images.

Already Represented

The X-RAY does not exist in any form in the emoji set. Though a skull emoji already exists, it fails to represent the technological marvel of an X-RAY.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

No logos, brands, icons, signage, specific people, or deities are represented by the X-RAY.

Transient

The X-RAY has a foothold in diagnostic medicine, and as such is a staple in the health industry. Because of its ubiquity, the emoji will most likely be equally transient in meaning and significance.

Faulty Comparison

There are no existing, comparable emojis to the X-RAY at this time.

Exact Images

Though the general image structure is specific-- blue or green tone with a skeletal structure on a fixed, black background--the piece of anatomy that is presented allows variance. As such, the X-RAY would still be easily recognizable.

Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type:

Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored:

N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping:

Simple Lowercase Mapping:

Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Author Biographies

Alijan Ozkiral (ozkiral.a@gmail.com) is working on his thesis on the semiotics of Emoji at Stony Brook University. The capabilities of an X-Ray have always been fascinating to him, as they can point out faults in the structures of the body, a theme in his creative works. Since a skeleton lives inside him, he is particularly interested in what an X-Ray can show him.

Christian Krenek (christian.krenek@gmail.com) has only received a few X-rays in his life--make no bones about it! He, like Alijan, is fascinated by the technology involved, and thanks Dr. Roentgen for his incredible invention. And speak of the angels--a skeleton lives inside him, too!