Is Google Making Us Stupid? (2008), Nicholas Carr

This article gives to the reader a reflection on the effects that the internet could have on our human intelligence. These last years, computers became predominant in our everyday life. Humans became dependant of it, and their access to the information is different from before last decade. The author cites some famous personalities like the philosopher Marshall McLuhan who thought that media have an effect on the human capacity of concentration. Some people think that the web have change the way we read and think and affected our ability to decode information. The medium of database is now much more universal and very accessible. What is interesting is what the author write when he steps back and underlines that the human brain is infinitely malleable: it is an organ of the nervous system that adapts to different intellectual technologies (for example, when Nietzche used his typewriter, his style of writing changed). Nicholas Carr makes then a comparison with changes in other systems: after the Industrial Revolution the hand working system evolved and has impacts on other fields which adapted to the new system. The popularization of the Internet is showing the same schema; the difference is that it is not about the hand working but about the mind and the goal is to come to a more effective way of thinking.