

Google Me This

People today have a dependency on the internet and all the information it allows us to have access to. With all the possible things that can be searched, watched, and discovered, there are endless possibilities that this platform provides for us in the current age. The internet has also become even more developed since its invention and holds limitless amounts of information that it's accumulated over its lifespan. Even though critics attempt to discredit these achievements, they are actually great examples of how the internet is of great help and importance in this current time and age.

First, the internet has changed how we receive information; search engines like Google offer an advantage because we can get information faster than others could in the past. Carr suggests "the faster we surf across the web... the more opportunities google and other companies gain to collect information on us and feed advertisements" (3). This is true; however, even though they have our information, we have the freedom to choose whether to acknowledge these advertisements or block them, and we have the freedom to choose where we spend our money.

Secondly, skimming is the process where you look for the most important information in a text as fast as possible. There is controversy on whether or not skimming is an acceptable method to use to obtain information. From Carr's perspective, skimming "may be weakening our capacity for the kind of deep reading that emerged when an earlier technology, the printing press, made long and complex works of prose commonplace" (2). However, skimming is not as bad as it seems. Skimming is a way to obtain information at a fast pace when you have a limited amount of time. For example, when taking standardized tests you skim because you are limited to time

restraints. Therefore, skimming is beneficial to anybody that does any sort of research, no matter the reason when under time restraints.

Finally, Carr asks “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” We are not necessarily becoming “stupid”, but our mental processing relies more on search engines, such as Google, because there is more knowledge for us to remember than our ancestors had to remember due to scientific discoveries. For example, the periodic table is constantly changing through continuous scientific discoveries. The latest addition to the periodic table, in January 2016, added 4 elements (Chappell). Therefore, it is not always necessary to memorize information due to the constant changes in today’s world.

In conclusion, the internet and Google are not making us “stupid”, but rather making us smarter since we can obtain information at a faster rate, learn to locate information directly, and gather more information than others in the past.

Works Cited

Carr, Nicholas. "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 2017, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2008/07/is-google-making-us-stupid/306868/. Accessed 31 May 2017.

Chappell, Bill. "4 New Elements Are Added To The Periodic Table." *NPR*, NPR, 4 Jan. 2016, www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/01/04/461904077/4-new-elements-are-added-to-the-periodic-table. Accessed 31 May 2017.