

No, Google is Making Us Smart

The human brain can arguably be compensated by man-made machines that can carry out the basic functions we need to live. Human intelligence, however, cannot be replaced by any sort of program. It is measured, not by a specific number, but by a combination of different abilities, such as reasoning and perception. So, to be considered “smart”, we need to be considerably *intelligent*. Nicholas Carr warns of the potential dangers we face if we rely too heavily on search engines, like Google, claiming that the longer we use this form of artificial intelligence, the sooner we lose our own, in his article, “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” Though his claims do draw a considerable point, we disagree. Search engines such as Google and the Internet do not make us dumber, and actually contribute to us becoming smarter.

A beneficial aspect of a search engine as powerful as Google, one that Carr admits himself is that they are “universally accessible and useful”, providing abundant information available at the user’s fingertips. As a writer himself, Carr recognizes how efficient Google is for research purposes. While some would argue that the ability to instantly retrieve information found online would decrease our general ability to analyze or simply process long texts, it is evident that the introduction of Google has provided Internet users with an alternative to time consuming research such as hours at the library or going door to door to ask neighbors. Search engines do not hinder the thought process, but instead quicken it. They encourage us to put our focus solely on the task at hand rather than the process by which information is found, ultimately making us smarter. The fact that search engines in general are a contributing factor to our intellect is challenged by Internet users, such as Nicholas Carr. However, the convenience and practicality of

the Internet appeals to the public, regardless of its intelligence benefits. As a database of universal knowledge, the Internet allows people access to millions of resources needed to perform other tasks, and learn new skills as well. With all these added attributes, it is evident that search engines -- such as Google -- do not detract from a person's intelligence, but extend it so that the user can reach the aptitude of their abilities.

The instantaneous response of a search engine is convenient, and provides information that prompts the continuation of thoughts for anyone researching with a search engine to aid them. This is the primary function of these tools, and it is clear that they allow us to expand our knowledge and therefore intelligence. With a world of knowledge at our fingertips, current generations are certainly more informed than ever before. Access to search engines is extremely beneficial in our increasingly technological world, and can contribute to the growth of our knowledge.