To Google or Not to Google

In Nicholas Carr’s “Is Google Making Us Stupid?”, he addresses complex issues regarding our dependency on our access to unlimited knowledge as a society. I disagree with his sentiments for a number of reasons that I intend to outline in this response.

In using the internet to aid my education, it has only made my learning experience more extensive. As someone that is interested in a plethora of subjects, using search engines has only furthered my understanding of the topics. The subjects that interest me, such as literature, physics, the arts, and astronomy, would take years to research through encyclopedias and other non-digital references (which usually contain outdated information even when they are published). However, in a much shorter time frame, I can have that knowledge at my fingertips.

While we do have all this knowledge at our disposal, there is still much that we do not know about our universe. There are questions that have puzzled the most brilliant minds in history and certainly cannot be solved by a simple Google search. For example, after reading a popular physicist’s explanation of the many worlds theory, a question arose in my mind. How is Google supposed to answer this query: “How can a person’s choices or observations of a system effect the superposition of a spinning electron, for example, assuming that the universe obeys the laws of physics from the time it starts to the point of interest?” There is still the wonder of not knowing, even in the world of information that is the Internet Age.

Even though Carr seems to think that immersing oneself into a book these days is nearly impossible, I still find it easy to devour interesting novels. I still take the time to read long articles about my interests as well. In fact, books are easier to find out about with internet reviews and recommendations, and I don’t have to dig through newspapers and magazines for articles I think I’ll enjoy. The Internet has fostered the growth of my love of learning rather than take away from it.

Our society also has seen several advancements since the advent of the internet. The Flynn effect is the idea that our society’s average intelligence is growing at a very fast pace alongside our technological developments. This is partially due to the way that many people have access to whatever they wish to know. Mass education of any degree is optimal for our civilizations to better themselves.

In conclusion, while people may use our unlimited access to knowledge as a crutch, it is a force for tremendous good. Civilization will forever grow and change and better itself and our recent advancements are making this process happen faster. Technology will continue to advance and shape our society and I for one am eager to see where it takes us next.