Google: Skimming or Learning?

In the article “*Is Google Making Us Stupid?”* by Nicholas Carr, Carr argues that using Google is preventing humans from having to actually learn and process information in a way that would cause the users to genuinely understand the information.However, this happens to be the exact opposite of what Google is doing. By using Google, users are able to access resources and learn information easily that may be useful to them. With this in mind, Carr’s belief is arguable.

To begin, Carr’s article states that Google’s mission is to “organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful”. Their goal is to have a perfect search engine and generate results that meet the user’s request. However, Carr does not understand that Google is meeting their goal that they set and humans are able to easily access the world’s information, which in turn is helping the users to gain knowledge. Proof that Google has met their goal is the fact that close to all of the world’s information is online and accessible to any user. This information includes resources like encyclopedias, as well as news, history, and even personal information. In the article, Carr does not mention that Google has in fact met their goal. By having these resources accessible through Google, users are able to learn and expand their understanding of a topic.

Additionally, Carr believes that internet users have begun to skim articles rather than fully read them. This leads him to believe that they are not fully comprehending what they are reading. However, in the article it mentions, “The human brain is almost infinitely malleable”. To add to that, Google’s view is, “The more pieces of information we can “access” and the faster we can extract their gist, the more productive we become as thinkers”. It has already been stated that Google is meeting their set goal seeing as how almost everything nowadays is online and accessible. Even if a person were to only skim an internet article to get the gist, according to Google’s view we are actually becoming more productive thinkers. As a person continues to skim while using the internet, the brain begins to more easily understand the content of something with only the keywords. Google has attained their mission of providing information in the easiest way possible,which allows users to access the information quickly.

Writer Samuel Johnson once said, “Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.” Google allows us to have access to nearly all of the information in existence. With this information, even through skimming, people are learning information that they may have never known otherwise. To sum up, as an internet user’s mind adapts to a point at which it can understand the information read by the user, whether skimmed or fully read, the user begins to remember the information they read as well entirely understand the meaning of it.