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Past the Basics

The statement, “If you give a child a fish, they have food for one day, but if you teach them how to fish, they will have food for a lifetime,” applies to getting access to knowledge and using that to help one accomplish a goal or objective. Nicholas Carr argues in “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” that with the use of Google and constant access to information, people are robbed of memories and intellectual thinking. However, at the moment Google contains a vast amount of information from around the world, and is still continuing to grow exponentially as more than three billion people who have access to it see it as an outlet to publish their ideas, solutions, and perspectives based on experiences and knowledge. The use of Google and the Internet not only provide a source for people to communicate their knowledge and open the minds of others, but also allow more time for complex thinking and problem-solving as the basics are easily covered in a matter of seconds through searches.

As all minds are different, all people comprehend data and learning differently than that of others. The Internet provides as an outlet for those who strive to help others learn and expand their minds on an endless amount of topics and new information. When Carr says that, “it is our intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence,” his statement contradicts with the true underlying purpose of the internet which is the passing of information from one person to another. With real people being the brains behind the online knowledge and not computers, it eliminates the idea of artificial intelligence of any kind being involved. Computers and generators may have an impact when it comes to sorting and managing the intelligence it receives, but has no effect on the reliability of the ideas and expertise on a topic.

Many people, including Nicholas Carr, come to the misunderstanding that the use of the internet and easily accessible information on websites lead to a lack of higher thinking and need for retention. Carr addresses that with the use of Google, people have a lost understanding of the world and rely on websites to comprehend it for them. On the contrary, the internet actually permits a greater understanding of the world as it gives multiple perspectives on other’s situations and opens minds to outside thinking. With information constantly being accessible, it allows more time for advanced comprehension to be determined as the basics of topics is no longer a time consuming ordeal. People no longer need to focus on definitions or first looks on situations and problems and can rather spend longer amounts of time on solving and calculating a solution.

While Nicholas Carr believes that the internet and Google hinder our minds, the use of these technological advances develop greater thinking and comprehension as they provide insight to different aspect of the world. With the information that is easily available from experts and intellectuals, all people in search of information can break through the surface and dig into the deeper aspects and solutions. Although Google may seem like the easy way out of learning and understanding, more often than not, simplicity is key.