The Man Behind the Machine

In the movie *The Imitation Game*, Alan Turing cracked the Nazi’s so-called infallible Enigma machine using a supercomputer of his own invention. Known as the father of computer science, he designed a machine that would test different possibilities simultaneously in order to solve the seemingly unsolvable Enigma code faster than any human could. Turing once said, “to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence.” The knowledge we input into the cyber world is a reflection upon us and not vice versa. In Nicholas Carr’s article *Is Google Making us Stupid*, the idea that using technology as a shortcut alters how our brains are wired as well as possibly being a hindrance to learning is emphasized. We are criticized for taking advantage of the internet and are labeled as incompetent. Today, the internet provides innumerable resources at our fingertips, and utilizing the information stored in the computer allows for resourcefulness. Therefore, training our brains in a different way is not necessarily taking away from what we have already learned.

The usage of Google, or the internet in general, offers organization, efficiency, collaboration, and storage capacity. Carr states that “the human brain is almost infinitely malleable”, and this implies that our brains can be trained to learn different things (3). If we can take advantage of this, we make ourselves resourceful and thus more intelligent in a sense. The internet provides connection to other communities globally, and if there is collaboration, so much can be learned from others if we take advantage of Google or the internet. Carr’s article strongly indicates that alterations in our mindsets are possibly detriments in learning because of the acclimation to the usage of technology in everyday life, and this is not true. How we perceive context or read information because of being used to technology does not necessarily reflect upon intelligence. Our brains have simply adapted to a change and are being trained to glean as much information from the internet, thus furthering intelligence.

There is a website called coolmath.com that allows you to play brain games against the computer. Persistently playing these games train your brain to think ahead and to pay attention, and this demonstrates that computers do attribute to our knowledge. Being flawed is a fundament of human nature. With the assistance of a technologically advanced machine, humans can train themselves to be more efficient and as well as knowledgeable, and we should compensate for our flaws by seeking to fill the gap of what we do not already know. With the assistance of the internet, we can train ourselves to be more efficient and as well as knowledgeable.

To emphasize, actively utilizing Google, or the internet in general, is not a detriment to our brains because rather, it can stimulate thinking processes and enhance communication, organization, and efficiency. According to Turing, artificial intelligence is a reflection of our own, and therefore, we are not dependent upon it. Rather, we can learn from Google, or the internet, essentially a reflection of our own knowledge.