Technology Feeds the Mind

How can readily-available information possibly make us stupid? Consider, if you will, scientists searching for a cure for cancer. Certainly, they would want to explore every informative avenue possible, including funding that other scientists have posted on the world-wide web. Google would be an excellent way to search for cutting-edge findings from around the world. Indeed, according to Mr. Carr’s article, Google claims that it wants to “organize… information and make it universally accessible and useful.” There is certainly nothing wrong with scanning multiple articles to find specific information. We would do the same thing if we were to go to the library to search for data. That method would take longer, thus delaying the possibility of a cure for cancer or any other disease, for that matter. Looking at the Internet from this perspective, one could reasonably argue that Google could be an asset, which is an argument for how the Internet actually makes us smarter and keeps us up to date.

Mr. Carr claims that his concentration on reading has disintegrated and that “the deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle.” He blames this change on Google and its mega highway of congested information. Although I agree that wading through the abundance of information may be distracting, I also believe that sifting through books in a library is no less distracting and tiring. This point alone seems to refute Mr. Carr’s reasoning.

In addition to asserting that Google has affected his capacity to read deeply, he also claims that he feels that “… someone, or something, has been tinkering with [his] brain, remapping the neural circuitry, reprogramming the memory.” I strongly agree with his reasoning because Google and the Internet are tinkering with peoples’ brains. For instance, before technology, we relied on our memory to store different vital information, and now we rely on the Internet to keep track of everything that we need. However, Mr. Carr says that the Internet “reprograms our memory” by being easily distracted. Even though Mr. Carr is being negative, I believe that Google and the Internet reprograms our memory in a positive way. For example, we obtain more knowledge by being able to research different topics instantly. If we did not have technology, we wouldn’t know half the information that we know today.

Even though Mr. Carr makes some interesting points on how Google and the Internet could possibly make us stupid, I must disagree. Many people need the Internet to perform potentially important and vital tasks. For instance, if we did not have all the state-of-the-art technology that we do today, then we wouldn’t have found cures for diverse types of diseases. A resulting consequence of a lack of technology would be that we would not have saved as many lives as we have over the past few decades. Technology has diversely shaped our world for the better throughout its existence. Even though people have their opinions about technology, I believe that our country would not be as advanced as it has become throughout the past years because of technology’s progression.