One of the key features of life is the ability to adapt. To be able to change to better fit your environment is important in the survival of any species. The changes found in the processes of the human mind since the emergence of Google and the Internet are simply the mind’s way of adapting to the environment with which it is presented, and so might not have the dire consequences presented by Nicholas Carr.

Since use of the Internet has increased, Carr relates that he has found a decrease in his attention span. He can no longer concentrate on long articles the way he was able to before it was common to use the Internet as a standard of communication and research. Before Google was created, people had to go the library and look up books with facts pertaining to their topic. Now, that information is readily available for anyone with an Internet connection at the touch of a finger, as well as people around the world that are experts on that topic. Carr believes that this has led to a new version of reading that is more closely related to skimming, which allows humans to view information at its most basic level, which Carr feels would not be as useful as deep knowledge. However, this is not necessarily correct.

In the past, it was necessary for a person to be a complete expert on a certain topic in order to succeed in a chosen field. Now, however, due to increased information availability, it is not always needed. Our minds are adapting to their given environment. They are told to take in as much information as possible in the least amount of time not only by employers, but also parents looking for a word at the tip of their tongue, or grandparents trying to remember the name of a Saturday morning cartoon. The fact that this information is so readily called up on the Internet only prohibits us from going to the dictionary or printed guide as we seek the more efficient option. Any change in an organism is made with the intent to help it survive better in its habitat by reacting to stimuli from outside forces. As the Internet is now a common stimulus in our world now, our minds are beginning to change in order to make the most of this opportunity presented to us. Though we may losing an apparently essential skill-deep knowledge-we may be moving towards a different skill that could possibly help us-large knowledge across disciplines.

Technology and humans are both changing at an unprecedented rate. The appearance of skimming allows humans to take in a larger amount of diversified information and so learn more not only intellectually, but also culturally. The Internet allows for a global connection between cultures. Large, shallow information allows for greater communication and understanding on a global scale. Clear communication worldwide could be a step towards bettering the environment, clearing conspiracies, and spreading peace.