After reading the very interesting article by Mr. Carr entitled, *Is Google Making us Stupid*, the points really made me think on a deeper level. To what extent do the tools that we use change us, and is it good, bad, neither, or both? After thinking on this question, I realized that these tools are affecting us both positively and negatively. Information is easier and quicker to obtain, which are two positive effects of online tools. However, we do become more distracted and more reliant on the easiness of using the tools instead of really thinking about the information or using the knowledge we already have.

The Internet makes our research in today’s time much easier.  Before this, it took a lot more time and was more difficult.  Prior to online searches, finding one small piece of information could take up valuable time.  Now, because of the Internet, we can find the same information within the click of a button.  Instead of trying to go through books and find out where to look, we can simply ask Google and huge websites full of information will be there immediately to help us.

From the other standpoint, the author states that he has trouble sitting down for long periods of time and focusing on one thing.  Most of his time is spent wandering off to other thoughts instead of staying tuned in to what his main task is. This is caused by the large amounts of distractions on web pages, such as ads, pop-ups emails, Facebook posts, etc. We get used to thinking of multiple things at one time, and constantly change what we are focused on. This causes our brains to develop a habit of processing more too many things at once.  We get flooded with too much information, which causes our brain to get tired and worn down quicker.  It is similar to having too many programs running on your cell phone; it works slowly and causes the battery to run down. Another issue is how some tools can take knowledge that we should know or pick up easily becomes harder because the Internet makes our brains lazy. This ultimately causes that tool to become a crutch for the mind and decreases our ability to solve problems when that tool is not available.

Some of our most important advancements in history have all had their critics and supporters. The tools of today do make our lives easier and quicker, which really helps in the research processes, but the accessibility of the information also causes distractions and makes our brain develop unhealthy habits. Are things that appear bad, always bad?  Are things that appear good, always good?  I think that most things dealing with the Internet are a little bit of both.