

Research Interview #1: My Mother

The first person that I interviewed is my own mother, who agreed to answer my questions via email.

When I asked her when she first discovered computers and how she learned to use them, she responded by stating that she first discovered them when she was in elementary school in the early 1980's. She also mentioned that she purchased her first computer in 1992 and would use it to make posters to hang on her bedroom walls. She said that she bought an AOL free trial disc from Walgreens. The free trial discs allowed users to connect to the world wide web using dial-up.

When I asked her how computers played a huge role in her life, she responded stating that she used computers while attending college at the DeVry Institute of Technology. She said that she worked for Ameritech, which is now known as AT&T, where she spent 8 hours a day working with computers. Her current position at Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois also involved an 8-hour shift involving computers. Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois also provided her with a laptop so she could do her remote work on it. She also mentions that she spends her free time surfing the internet and reading social media posts on her computer.

When I asked her about how she believed that computers have shaped other people's lives, she responded stating that they are shaping everyone's lives by making everything available without leaving their homes. She mentioned that you could do research on a computer instead of having to go to the library. She mentioned that people could socialize with friends and family via email instead of mailing letters. She mentioned that people could shop without having to leave their house. She states that the recent pandemic had led to more people using computers for various tasks.

I asked her about what advancements in the technology of computers did she expect to see in a decade from now. She responded to the question by stating that she would like to see future computers being built upon the foundation of today's computers. She states that the technology inside computers have come a long way since the late 1970's. She mentions that there could be no physical machines as we know them, but instead advanced computing systems could fit on people's bodies like a piece of jewelry. She further elaborates by mentioning that people will continue to control the computers and that it is

something that isn't likely to change in what lies ahead.

When I asked her about her thoughts on computers and other devices, she responded stating that she found computers to be "amazing". She states that the main reason that she believed computers are amazing is because they are used to access the internet for finding any kind of information. She states that she found so much information on her college assignments when she attended DeVry for her homework. She adds on to that mentioning that if she didn't have a computer when she was a student, it would've been more stressful for her. She concluded her response by stating that "using computers helps everyone".