

If the reading is traveling, the article "As We May Think" will be a tough journey for me. Especially the first half part, Vannevar Bush mentions the various type of technology and theory to show the change of human's life. I always get distributed when he talks about new technology. However, I get a better understanding of the text in the second half part of "memex".

After going through this article, I admire Mr. Bush who has the vision of the human future; some of his ideas give me a shock, because of its advance. According to the article, Bush says "The world has arrived at the age of cheap complex devices of great reliability, and something is bound to come of it." Human begins to create high-quality devices quickly and easily. These new technologies will help scientist to handle the advanced mathematics problem. Further they can explore more unknown things. And these devices can improve our life. For example, the new method to record our life experience and knowledge.

Recording method is an interesting point that Vannevar Bush talks about in the article. The method of transmitting and reviewing the results of research is too old, because of this Mendel's concept of the laws of genetics was lost to the world for a generation. It reminds me of the loss of Chinese textile technology, hundred years ago old people can use silk to make super light cloth, which is only 38 grams. As a secret royal textile technology, the researcher does not find any record of this technology, except that silk cloth. Even now people still cannot use a regular sewing machine to produce this kind of light fabric. Imaging we invent that light silk cloth in 21 centuries. We can use photograph, text, video, and digital model.

If we lost some technologies because of the recording method that will be the greatest regrets in human history.

Moreover, Vannevar Bush introduces a device which is using for storing personal books, records, and communications called "memex". (Such a strange name but I like it.) Memex is like the prototype of the smartphone. The user can read the book, check the message and add new information in it. It has high exchange speed and flexibility. If someone talks about this device today, I will feel stupid. But the idea of memex was in 1945.

Finally, In the last paragraph, Bush says "in the application of science to the needs and desires of man, it would seem to be a singularly unfortunate stage." I feel wired about this sentence, maybe because I am a little bit lost after finishing the article. Bush talks about the influence and future of the new device. This sentence shows that he does not want people to use the science for convenience their life or satisfy their desire. On the contrary, we should focus on seeking the truth. It is a beautiful idea, and I believe most researcher is following this belief. However, the human is an animal, all we have done is for one purpose, survive. Every country transfers their technology to productivity and military power. We cannot abandon our nature; maybe this is why human always on the way of seeking truth but cannot find it.