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Curation Project — Reflection

I decided to explore the cultural impact phones have had on our society due to their extraordinary evolution. It is fascinating from a technological standpoint and from a cultural standpoint to analyze how we have transformed the way we communicate and interact with each other. The process of finding information and images for my project was not difficult as it is very well documented due to how popular phones are. I was able to find *Wikimedia*, which is a website that provides images that are either creative commons materials or public domain. Before I was able to find this website I had a very difficult time finding any images of the specific phones I was looking for. I was also not able to find any articles that were creative commons materials or public domain materials that spoke specifically about the cultural impact of phones. It made me realize just how rare these materials are, although rightfully so as the owner of these images and articles deserve recognition and value for their work.

My project focuses on the different functionalities that were the main focus of phones during a given time period and how it transformed the way we communicate. I wanted to avoid the narrative of "newer is better" or "older is better" and highlight how each technological advancement we made to phones had an impact on society. Phones started with the focus of connecting people over long distances. For the first time, it allowed for instant communication instead of waiting for the next time you meet them. It provided convenience, and importantly it strengthened our relationships with one another and brought us closer as a community. Each technological advancement still heavily relied on the notion of bringing people together. For example, TikTok although seen as more of an entertainment app, creates communities that allow people to share important thoughts and content with one another. I often see content that advocates for minorities or speaks up against discrimination in our communities. Although phones are now drastically different from a technological aspect with many more functionalities than ever before, communication and connection is ultimately what drive people to continue to rely heavily on their phones.

Citations:

[1] Redrum0486. "File:DynaTAC8000X.Jpg - Wikimedia Commons." Wikimedia, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:DynaTAC8000X.jpg. Accessed 6 June 2023.

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