Alex Croce

Response to “ is Google Making Us Stupid”

Nicholas Carr’s article “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” brought forward a topic that can be viewed as a pressing issue in some peoples eyes. Nicholas wrote how he could no longer read a larger text because he is so easily side tract and loses his attention on the reading. The Internet has become so easily accessed across the globe, that when people want an answer to a question they can obtain the answer within seconds without reading an entire article or a section of an encyclopedia. Nicholas admits that the Internet has changed his thinking, he states in his article: “…chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation. My mind now expects to take in information the way the Net distributes it: in a swiftly moving stream of particles.” He admits that his brain is changing and as a book enthusiast can no longer read the type of literature he used to be able to read in his life before the Internet. The author does a great job bringing up points not only directed around Google and how the search engine is “making us stupid,” but how other literature enthusiast’s are experiencing the same troubles as himself and have lost the power to concentrate and comprehend what they used to be able to so easily do before the Internet. Nicholas even brings forward how Frederick Taylor’s algorithm to maximize proficiency in production in factories was carried forward to today’s age and is still being applied across the globe inadvertently in a positive way.

Google’s mission is “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.” They want to make Google the key to universal knowledge as an artificial intelligence that can be comparable to the human brain or smarter. Google is constantly running algorithms off of the bits and pieces of data you leave behind to run ads directed towards you and make every search more and more specific. Nicholas proceeds to comment how the Internet cannot be viewed as a new alphabet or a language and he goes on to say, “The kind of deep reading that a sequence of printed pages promotes is valuable not just for the knowledge we acquire from the author’s words but for the intel- lectual vibrations those words set off within our own minds.” I couldn’t agree more with this statement because he is right, there is nothing like reading a piece of literature that will exercise our brains and help humans gain knowledge in a “full” way. Reading whether we like it or not is the way humans have been learning for years, and is the way people will gain the knowledge they need to survive. Since the Internet has come out and I have been part of the generation to see it expand so vastly, I have also seen how our lifestyles have been changed to revolve around the internet with social media sites, they are extensions of people, they are a version of us for people to see whenever they want. Stanley Kubrick formed a prophecy, “as we come to rely on computers to mediate our understanding of the world, it is our own intelligence that flattens into artificial intelligence,” this prophecy in my eyes is becoming more and more true every day and people need to recognize that you have to exercise your brain with reading and can’t always rely on the internet for the universal answer to everything.