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Is Google negatively affecting our intelligence?

Google has evolved our standard way of finding information. In the blink of an eye you could search for anything you are interested in. But sadly, Google is negatively affecting our intelligence. In the articles, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" by Nicholas Carr and Peter Norvig, "Google effect: is technology making us stupid?" by Genevieve Roberts, and an infographic by Moran and Firth, the problem is whether Google has positive or negative effects on people's intelligence. Google is negatively affecting our memory, credible information, and is creating distractions.

¶ 1 First of all, we would have to remember most things in the days before Google because the library was our guide to information. The author states , "Without internet access, if we wanted to know about something, we had limited source options to research it, like the available books in the nearby library." in the infographic. The average time to check out a library book is most likely two weeks. Being able to memorize the information was more convenient than always checking it out of the library. Stated by Genevieve Roberts, "If we spend all our time online, or experiencing our lives through a smartphone camera lens, we might miss important experiences, and not commit them to long-term memory." The convenience of having everything stored into a single device will affect our memory drastically because if your phone is

lost you will not have any phone numbers memorized. Or sometimes you will forget your passwords if they were written as notes on your phone. Being too dependent on Google will fog your memory which will negatively affect your life and intelligence.

¶ 2 Secondly, Google is full of information but who is to say that any of it is true. In Wikipedia anybody with an account can change the information and make it biased or untrue. Shown in the Infographic the authors states, "The internet is filled with incorrect information, which may lead to being misinformed." Imagine researching a subject you are very interested in and thinking, "Just as a car allows us to move faster a telescope lets us see farther, access to the Internet's information lets us think better and faster." as stated by Peter Norvig. The thing is, what if the information you were thinking better and faster about is false. Somebody's opinion will become your beliefs. Filled with plenty of misguided information, Google will negatively affect your intelligence.

¶ 3 Finally, Google is not only filled with information, it is also filled with distractions. One minute you are reading about Hamilton then the next minute you are learning if you are having a heart attack or installing Color Switch. "The Net bombards us with messages and other bits of data, every one of those interruptions breaks our train of thought ." stated Nicholas Carr. With all the interruptions, you would end up scatterbrained not thinking deeply about what you were researching. Also stated by Nicholas Carr ,"If we're distracted, we understand less, remember less, and learn less." The distractions on the web is negatively affecting our intelligence. Even though, "With the Internet, everything is just a click away." shown in the Infographic, sitting down and staring at a screen all day doesn't really positively affect us.

In the end, although there are many ways the internet does help us, there are more consequences to how the internet negatively affects our intelligence. Yes, technology and the internet is an evolution to research and accessibility but you should not be so dependent on it as to make it a part of your life. Making it unable to continue without the internet would negatively affect you. That is also why Google is negatively affecting our memory, our reliable information, and is creating distractions which negatively affect our intelligence.