

Many expanding our
minds with all the
knowledge



Many may believe that smart searches and smart phones are making us stupid or lazy. Nicholas Carr, who made the argument that Google is making us stupid, would agree with them; However, the author of the opposing argument, "Think Digital Distractions Have Killed our Attention Spans? Think Again", Stuart Jefferies, disagrees and do I. Books are now available online so we have all the information we need at our fingertips-without wasting paper. Our phones may be distracting us, but those distractions can also be expanding our minds with all the knowledge we obtain from our phones' wealth of information. Many people do not read books anymore in the first place.

But for those who do, they often consist of audiobooks and eBooks.

Continuing to print paper books is bad for the environment and sometimes the small print can be bad for our eyes. An eBook will eliminate both of those issues by replacing paper with a screen and having the ability to enlarge the text. Plus, a lot of books are just too long. "Why didn't she read Tarrt as an ebook? Why did she choose this inefficient delivery system that proves what Philip Larkin wrote at the end of A Study of Reading Habits, namely that "books are a load of crap"?

"In Carr's argument, he talks about a man losing his sight and that he feared he would have to give up reading altogether. Sometime in 1882, Friedrich Nietzsche bought a typewriter—a Malling-Hansen Writing Ball, to be precise. His vision was failing, and keeping his eyes focused on a page had become exhausting and painful, often bringing on crushing headaches. He had been forced to curtail his writing, and he feared that he would soon

have to give it up. This is no longer an issue with books, for they can be read to you as an audio book.

Typing is also easier because you can speak directly into your smart device and it will type for you. As an added bonus, it usually spells the words correctly. Carr states that " Research that once required days in the stacks or periodical rooms of libraries can now be done in minutes. A few Google searches, some quick clicks on hyperlinks, and I've got the telltale fact or pithy quote I was after.

" What once took a very long time to research or learn about now takes a few hours. This either gives us more time to learn about that subject or more time to learn about another matter. I believe the internet is also making us smarter because we can now receive an education online, like I'm doing right now. We have unlimited amounts of texts and books to read on the internet. Reading, explains Wolf, is not an instinctive skill for human beings. It's not etched into our genes the way speech is.

We have to teach our minds how to translate the symbolic characters we see into the language we understand. Having the use of the internet at our palms may be distracting, but it is also making us smarter by giving us a ton of knowledge instantly. " Even when I'm not working, I'm as likely as not to be foraging in the Web's info-thickets, reading and writing e-mails, scanning headlines and blog posts, watching videos and listening to podcasts, or just tripping from link to link to link." Even streaming sources that allow us to watch movies, television shows, and documentaries are expanding our knowledge.

“ Television programs add text crawls and pop-up ads, and magazines and newspapers shorten their articles, introduce capsule summaries, and crowd their pages with easy-to-browse info-snippets.” The access of the internet may be making us lazier, but it is not making us stupid. We may be too lazy to get up and get a book, but we can read all of them from our devices. The need to look something up no longer requires a ginormous thesaurus but only the typing of a few words into a search engine and a vast amount of information is there for you. Digital distractions are taking a little time from what we supposed to be doing; however, our brains are expanding with all of the information we gather, all the articles we read, and with all the videos we watch.