Is the Internet making us stupid?

A point-counterpoint

Patricia McMillan, CAUDIT
Geoffrey Brown, The University of Sydney

THE SHALLOWS
How the internet is changing the way we think, read and remember

NICHOLAS CARR

CLAY SHIRKY
COGNITIVE SURPLUS
Creativity and Generosity in a Connected Age
Marshall McLuhan
“The medium is the message”
*Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, 1964

An intelligent word graven in the soul of the learner

Socrates
Writing:
Implanting forgetfulness in our souls

Spaces between words

When he read, his eyes scanned the page and his heart explored the meaning, but his voice was silent and his tongue was still.
- Augustine
So many books – so much confusion!

All around us an ocean of print

And most of it covered in froth.

- Lope de Vega, 1612
1,000,000,000,000 hours per year
Milkshake mistake
What job are we hiring the Internet to do?

Doing something vs Doing nothing
Is the Internet making us stupid?
For further reading

Marshall McLuhan, 1964
*Understanding Media: Extensions of Man*

Nicholas Carr, 2010
*The Shallows: How the internet is changing the way we think, read and remember*

Clay Shirky, 2010
*Cognitive Surplus: Creativity and generosity in a connected age*

Daniel Pink, 2005
*A Whole New Mind: Why right-brainers will rule the future*
Image sources


NY Public Library: http://www.intentionalcommunity.org/?p=103

Watching television:

South Korean Beef Protest:

University of Sydney:
http://sydney.edu.au/education_social_work/bulletin/?p=18539

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