

***The Shallows* by Nicolas Carr**

I have just finished reading **The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains** by Nicolas Carr. It is a great book: a warning and a challenge; a historical, psychological, and biological examination of the intimate connection between humans and technology; an exploration of how technologies structure, support, facilitate, empower, and at times degrade and disrupt our capacities and psychological abilities. In it the author delves into the rise of writing and of books and how they changed our minds, our brains, the world that we live in. And more immediately, with the coming of computers, the Internet, and social media, the author poses some serious questions: Are we becoming more fragmented, more flighty, more narcissistic and socially inept, more distracted and shallow because of Google, Apple, search engines, social webs and networks, cell phones, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Carr thinks that there is a lot of evidence that we are. We are not creating technologies that serve our intelligence--we are not using our gadgets toward wise and enlightened ends. You could write a whole book on these questions, issues--which Carr has.

Carr's book is a warning call for our future evolution, a warning about creating a future world that, though technologically more jazzed up than the present, may lead to a bunch of low grade imbeciles who can hit keys a mile a minute, find answers for the quiz in a nanosecond, and know what all their "friends" had for breakfast that morning, but can't think or reason, and have no depth.

For a more diverse set of short readings addressing this topic, many supporting Carr's general thesis, many disagreeing with it, read John Brockman's (Ed.) *Is the Internet Changing the Way You Think? The Net's Impact on Our Minds and Future*. New York: Harper, 2011.