

Is the Internet making us stupid?

A point/counterpoint

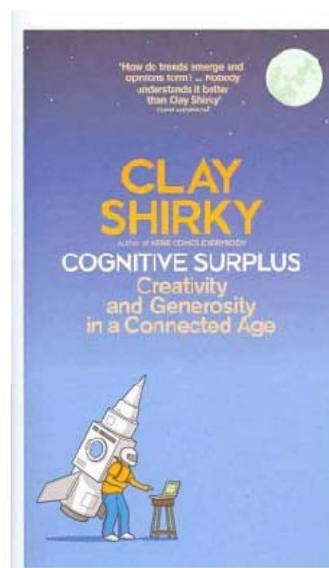
Patricia McMillan, CAUDIT
Geoffrey Brown, The University of Sydney

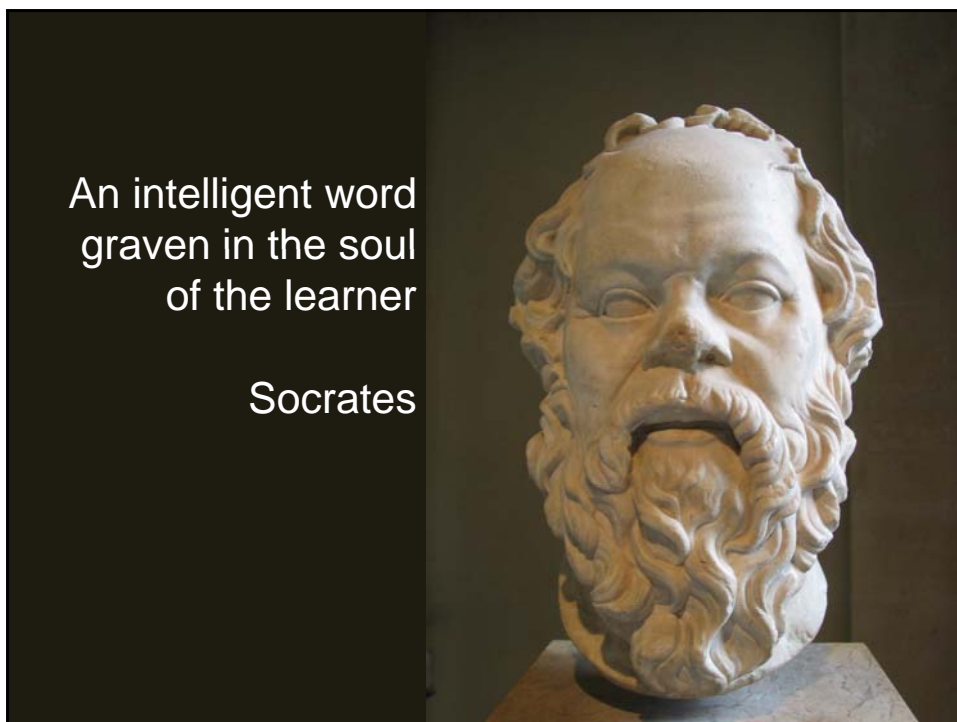
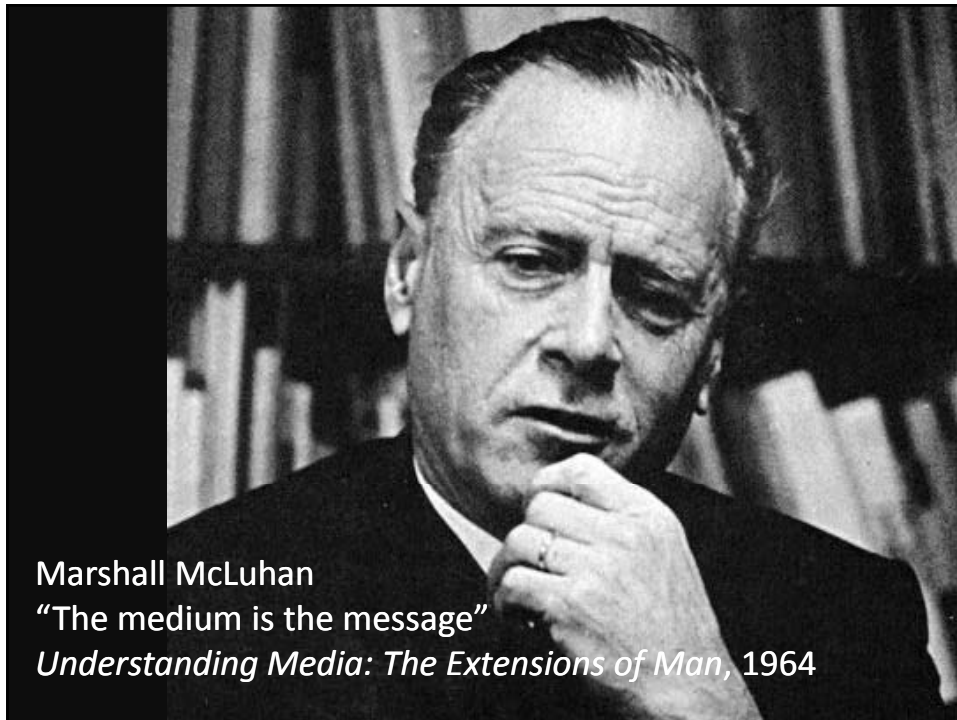
THE SHALLOWS

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



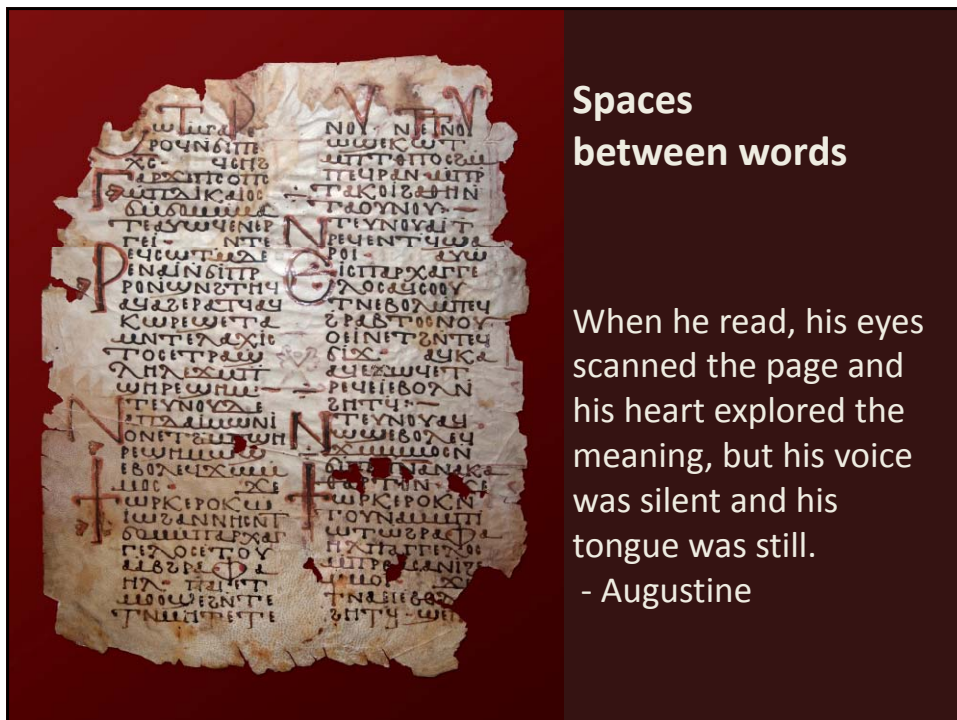
NICHOLAS CARR







**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

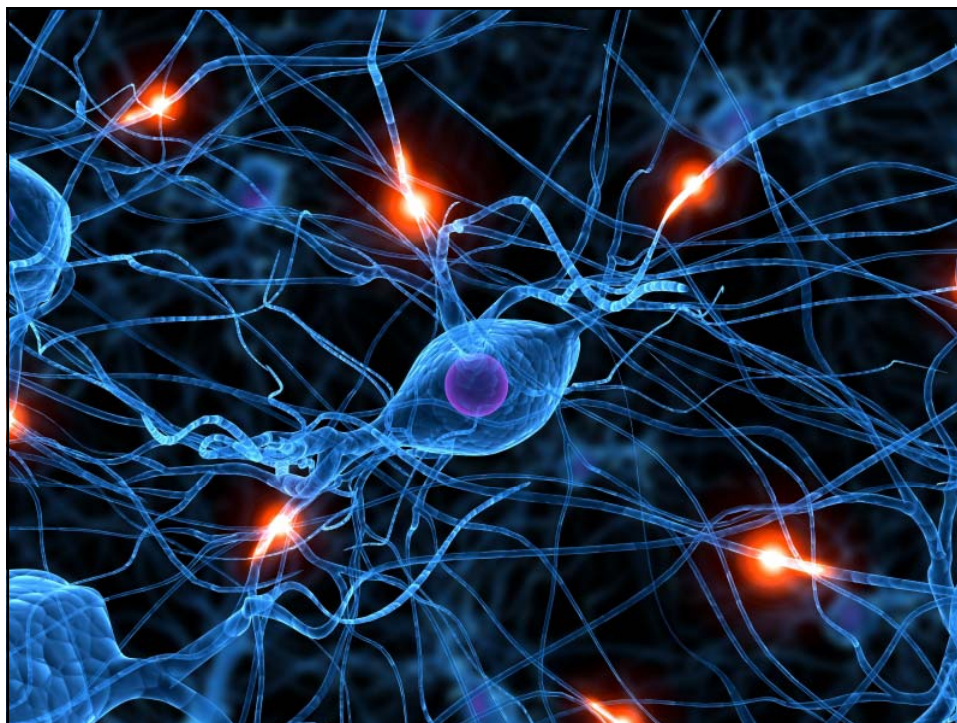
And most of it covered
in froth.

- 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

WordPress.com

Language: English

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Our stats are designed to give you up-to-the-minute data about your visitors: how many there are, where they're coming from, which posts are most popular, and which search engine terms are sending visitors to your blog.

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You can change the look of your blog with over 100 [attractive themes](#) ranging from

Freshly Pressed:

The best of 407,821 bloggers, 351,448 new posts, 319,476 comments, & 91,447,725 words posted today on WordPress.com.

The Floating Islands – Puno, Peru

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.

Posts about photography →

POP PRESSED

The freshest in culture.

PopPressed.com →

THE CREATIVE HABIT

LEARN IT AND USE IT FOR LIFE

Would You Rather Be Productive Or Creative?

Broadside

Posts about culture →

The Sports Fan's Dream Week

For Aslan...and the Volunteer State

Posts about baseball →

Daily Design #365. I did it!

Circadian Creative | Seán Coleman's daily design challenge.

Posts about illustration →

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English
The Free Encyclopedia
3 595 000+ articles

日本語
フリー百科事典
740 000+ 記事

Deutsch
Die freie Enzyklopädie
1 207 000+ Artikel

Español
La enciclopedia libre
742 000+ artículos

Français
L'encyclopédie libre
1 083 000+ articles

Русский
Свободная энциклопедия
693 000+ статей

Italiano
L'enciclopedia libera
786 000+ voci

Português
A enciclopédia livre
678 000+ artigos

Polski
Wolna encyklopedia
789 000+ haseł

Nederlands
De vrije encyclopedie
678 000+ artikelen

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English



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

Marshall McLuhan: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MarshallMcLuhan.png>

Bust of Socrates: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Socrates_Louvre.jpg

Early printer: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Printer_in_1568-ce.png

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

Watching television:

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/web-is-the-new-television-for-young-adults/story-e6frfro0-1111115651377>

South Korean Beef Protest:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:080503_ROK_Protest_Against_US_Beef_Agreement_05.jpg

University of Sydney:

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