The Internet’s Impact on Society
The Internet has grown rapidly within the past decade. It has effectively changed the life and the way the world communicates through the media. Internet access has given several countries around the world ability to communicate through this unique medium, and as a result, globalizing the world (Internet World Stats). The Internet’s impact on the media has changed the business world as well as different user groups throughout society.

One source of media that the Internet has affected is the newspaper and the way news information is communicated throughout society. The Internet has changed newspapers and journalism as a whole. Newspaper businesses have been decreasing in size and numbers due to the fact that many news Websites attain information that was produced elsewhere, rather than from newspaper businesses. Although there is much news information posted on news Websites, online advertisements have become a barrier of news growth ability. Online news Websites in turn, are causing the newspaper organizations to decrease in size (Bauder).

Although newspaper businesses are decreasing, news reporters are taking advantage of the use of the Internet to communicate with their audience. The news printed on paper is also being brought to life online to update the audience on what news coverage occurred on a certain day. Many journalists take advantage of these technological changes affecting the newspaper, and post online blogs. These journalists enjoy posting online blogs because it gives them a chance to send information through the media to their audiences, as well as gain reader feedback on their stories. As a result of posting blogs online, journalists found that online blogs were more stimulating and inspirational, rather than feeling overworked (Bauder).

Finally, Internet users find it convenient to navigate from page to page online. Since many sites and even individual pages offer navigation options to link from one page to a related
page, users can link to the articles on one newspaper Website such as The Washington Post from The Boston Globe Website. This creates convenience for users and increases the number of viewers for online news Websites. As a result, online news sites benefits both the consumers as well as the businesses (Bauder).

Furthermore, the Internet is not only decreasing the newspaper business in the United States, but the Internet has also affected newspapers worldwide, such as in Australia and the United Kingdom. Although there are traditionalists who believe that newspapers can adjust to change within new environments, and the role of editors and journalists to release information to the public is respected, there are others who believe otherwise. Those who contradict the traditionalists’ beliefs, believe that as time passes some or all newspapers will eventually become extinct in the United Kingdom. This is due to the fact that the business of selling words to readers through print, and selling the readers to advertisers is slowly falling apart (The Australian Press Council).

Another reason why selling words to readers through print has not been successful in the modern world of technology is because the society’s reading habits have changed and decreased, especially throughout youth, teenagers, and young adults. There are less people reading the newspaper through print media. Those who are reading words printing on the newspaper are usually of the elder generation because the elder generation did not grow up with Internet access. Therefore, they would prefer reading news on print because they are more comfortable with print rather than using the technology of today’s world to access information. When the newspaper printing business degrades, newspapers do not have a significant role throughout society worldwide (The Australian Press Council).
Along with journalism and the newspaper, the Internet has affected libraries worldwide in different ways. The use of the Internet has become efficient when acquiring information. The two main Internet effects include the change within the virtual library environment, and the future directions in development planning.

The effect that the Internet has on libraries is the change within the virtual library environment. Due to the advance and increase in use of technology throughout businesses, the term virtual library has been created. A virtual library environment is one that can be reached not only locally, but globally as well. This benefits users through the just-in-case and just-in-time methods. Libraries use the just-in-case method when they are not able to immediately provide information on the customer’s behalf because they do not carry the correct materials. On the other hand, the just-in-time (JIT) method immediately gives out information demanded to satisfy the user’s need. Unlike the traditional means of storing information in libraries, a virtual library allows resources to be digitalized and saved so any user can access the information. Therefore, for the first time, a virtual library environment creates services that are in closer relation to responding to the needs and goals of the users (Chen). As a result, the flow of information across the world is faster than ever.

The Internet also affects libraries through future directions. In order to create successful digital libraries for the future, libraries must reorganize their information accordingly so the information can be attained and distributed quickly to their users. Libraries must also learn the importance of bibliographic control over the services and resources. When libraries are aware of their bibliographic control, they can have more control over preventing the loss of information in the future. In order to distribute correct information through a user-friendly way in the future,
libraries must effectively organize information for users to easily access information in order to fulfill users’ needs. The final problem that libraries will have to face for the future is the availability of information put into the network. Due to the large amount of users, libraries must find a way to divide up the budget to create a maximum availability for the future (Chen).

Overall, with the ways the Internet has emerged throughout the years, the Internet has an inevitable effect and trend on libraries. Libraries are able to distribute information to users through a network to create easy and quick access to information. In order to continue information distribution in the future, libraries must make sure information is organized correctly to create an efficient virtual library (Chen). The Internet’s effect on libraries has resulted in quick and easy access to information for the users.

The Internet does not only affect print media such as newspapers and information found through libraries, but also children and teenagers throughout society. The Internet has greatly affected the way that children learn and the social skills of teenagers. Studies show how technology can equally teach children basic skills such as their alphabet and numbers the same way flashcards would, and on the other hand, how technology affects teenagers’ leisure activities and the way that teenagers relate to society.

Today, technology appears in and affects children’s lives at younger ages as the years go by. Unlike many teenagers and young adults today that lived part of their childhood through the 20th century who used flashcards during the elementary-age to learn their basic educational skills, several 3 and 4-year-olds have learned how to easily use special software that teaches them their ABCs and 1-2-3s. This skill of knowing how to use software technology as a learning tool and increase in technological products in the market, such as the Internet, has changed the
daily lives of children today. Media, such as certain educational computer games and the Internet can give children an additional visual way of learning, which can enrich the way children learn through critical learning (Carpenter).

Although Internet and other forms of digital media may raise children’s ability to multitask, there is a concern throughout society that the technology may significantly cut down the ability to process information. Researchers, such as Sherry Turkle, make points to show the society that the effects of the computer as an educational tool can not be categorized as being good or bad, but rather, relevant to society. By the definition of powerful, children do not use the Internet so much as a leisure activity, but as a way to better expand their knowledge of the world. Therefore, not only does the Internet affect children through the ways they spend their free time, it also influences children greatly in educational aspects (Carpenter).

Additionally, the Internet has affected many teenagers’ social lives both negatively and positively. Clearly, there has been an increase in many teenagers’ addiction to the Internet. While teenagers use the Internet effectively for educational research, they also the Internet as a way of communicating with society. Therefore, teenagers slowly gain an addiction to the Internet, adding the use of the Internet to a list of daily tasks that need to be done (Benjamin).

In today’s society, many people view the Internet as having a negative affect on teenagers. Today, teenagers frequently access the Internet to play online games, listen to music, and meet new people through various social networks. Additionally, since the adolescent-age group of today’s society is more likely to be portrayed as victims or criminals, media and technology has deteriorated the social skills of today’s youth and teenagers (Affonso).
Researchers believe that when teenagers create an addiction to the Internet will negatively affect teenagers because they will loose the skills and patience that today’s adults have when interacting in face-to-face social gatherings. This impatience is likely due to the fact that since the speed of accessing information through the Internet has increased throughout the years, teenagers adapt to the speed and do not have to time or patience needed for a Web page to load completely. Since many teenagers manage to find time to fit in Internet access to their daily lives, the Internet use becomes a necessity to teenagers’ lives. As a result from the addiction, Internet use has become a top priority in daily tasks for teenagers. Through the addiction, some teenagers have replaced personal needs, such as sleep, and social interactions between friends and family with the virtual society and social networks (Benjamin). Overall, the Internet has gradually become a necessary part of teenagers’ lives whether they use it to gain information or as a leisure activity.

Finally, the Internet has changed the way different businesses function and the daily lives of people worldwide. While it has decreased the size and number of newspaper businesses, it has put libraries at an advantage, by creating the virtual library for quick and easy access to information. On the other hand, the Internet has also changed the way people throughout society, especially children and teenagers, live. The rise in technology and the Internet has changed the learning styles of today’s elementary-aged children from learning basic skills through flashcards, to using special software to learn how to read and do math. Additionally, the Internet has good and bad effects on teenagers’ lives in today’s society. The use of the Internet has successfully helped teenagers with gaining information they need for research projects. On the downside, many teenagers use the Internet as a means of communication, and as a result
creating social networking. The Internet has also become an addiction, and many teenagers have put the Internet before other daily tasks, such as socializing with friends and family, or sleeping. As a result of the heavy use of the Internet for social networking, teenagers slowly lose useful communication skills in a social setting. Overall, the Internet has greatly impacted the business world, as well as the society as a whole.
Works Cited


