The Google generation: the information behaviour of the researcher of the future

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Abstract

Purpose
This article is an edited version of a report commissioned by the British Library and JISC to identify how the specialist researchers of the future (those born after 1993) are likely to access and interact with digital resources in five to ten years' time. The purpose is to investigate the impact of digital transition on the information behaviour of the Google Generation and to guide library and information services to anticipate and react to any new or emerging behaviours in the most effective way.

Design/methodology/approach
The study was virtually longitudinal and is based on a number of extensive reviews of related literature, survey data mining and a deep log analysis of a British Library and a JISC web site intended for younger people.

Findings
The study shows that much of the impact of ICTs on the young has been overestimated. The study claims that although young people demonstrate an apparent ease and familiarity with computers, they rely heavily on search engines, view rather than read and do not possess the critical and analytical skills to assess the information that they find on the web.

Originality/value
The paper reports on a study that overturns the common assumption that the “Google generation” is the most web-literate.

Keywords
Students Information retrieval Young adults Internet

Citation

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The "Google generation" is a popular phrase that refers to a generation of young people, born after 1993, that is growing up in a world dominated by the internet. Published in Technology, Education. 8 Comments. 3. information behaviour of the researcher of the future contents looking to the future 25 what are might the information environment be like in 2017? 26 looking to the future 29 what are the implications for "information experts"? 30 what are the implications for research libraries? 31 what are the implications for policy makers? Findings The Google Generation appears to behave very differently from older generations. By their own admission they are less confident about their searching prowess and this is also demonstrated by the fact that they viewed fewer pages, visited fewer domains and undertook fewer searches. Also, tellingly, their search statements were much more the product of cut and paste. The research for the Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future project was approached by systematically analysing the literature on young peoples use of new technology over a 30-year period and by conducting an intergenerational experiment, using web logs (digital footprints) to see how people of different ages used the same educational web resources. transition on the information behaviour of the Google Generation and to guide library and information services to anticipate and react to any new or emerging behaviours in the most effective way. Design/methodology/approach – The study was virtually longitudinal and is based on a number of extensive reviews of related literature, survey data mining and a deep log analysis of a British Library and JISC in April 2007 to identify how the specialist researchers of the future, currently in their school or pre-school years, are likely to access and interact with digital resources in five to ten years' time[1]. The purpose of the report was to guide. Presentation on theme: "The Google Generation: Information behaviour of the researcher of the future Maggie Fieldhouse CIBER School of Library Archive and Information Studies,"— Presentation transcript: 1 The Google Generation: Information behaviour of the researcher of the future Maggie Fieldhouse CIBER School of Library Archive and Information Studies, University College, London. 6 How different is the Google Generation? Will they research in new ways in the future? What does post-web life mean for information seeking? How much does technology matter? How have older generations adapted to new technologies? 7 Is the Google Generation a myth? Is There a 'Google' Generation? book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. Chandos Publishing is a leading international publisher of… Information Search Behaviour Developments and the Future Learner* as Want to Read. Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. Other editions. Enlarge cover.