INTERNET OR LIBRARY

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Following the advent of modern technology, libraries nowadays seem to have declining “visitors”. Why not? Everything seems to be at your fingertips.

But being a student before the hype of technology kicked in, I still prefer library over internet for a number of reasons.

To start off, I strongly believe that internet cannot substitute libraries. Instead, internet can only serve as a tool to facilitate research; to learn which material to browse in the library. After all, not everything that has been published traditionally can be seen online.

Another reason why I would still prefer to visit library than rely heavily on internet is the fact that internet sources are hard to identify. It’s almost always difficult to tell who said what or which is the real origin of a piece of work. Because truth be told, it’s not easy to control what’s being posted on the internet; and with the proliferation of fake news, it’s quite dangerous to just simply pick-up from the internet.

Don’t get me wrong, I acknowledge that internet has its own good sides. Like what I have mentioned, it can be accessed easily; it is always being updated — really it is quite difficult to find sources from the internet that is more than 20 years old! (But that fact can work for and against internet.)

But if I have to choose between internet and libraries, it’s still the books at the libraries won over me. So, please, no matter how we advance technologically, don’t abandon the book. There is nothing in our material world more beautiful than the books.
References:

Patti Smith

(Acceptance Speech, National Book Award, 2010 (Nonfiction), November 17, 2010)