

Week 2 Journal

This week I have really been thinking about two things - Facebook and YouTube. With the talk about digital footprints, Facebook comes to mind, since it was my first. When I started, I was constantly adding family photos so that extended family could see them and I would have access to them later. Unfortunately, I did not realize I was creating a digital footprint for my husband, who doesn't have any social media accounts, and my daughters, who were so young. Early on I started using nicknames, rather than full names, and then later, just their first initials as we became more worried about identity theft. These days, I try not to post that often about them, so when I do, it is about the big stuff, like making the school volleyball team or the dance team.

Recently, one of my daughters brought up that my Instagram account had a lot of photos of her, and some were embarrassing. She asked if I could archive them, and once she taught me how, I went through and archived all photos of them prior to 2019. After that, I started thinking about all those photos on Facebook. I don't want to lose them, since many were taken before we started using iCloud to back up our photos. My daughter's argument about Instagram applies to Facebook, even though she can't see it since she doesn't have an account. I did a little research and figured out how to change the settings on all those albums to just me - so I don't lose them, but no one else can see them. I went through and hid most of the older photos of them. I wish I could do it for photos others have posted, but at least my actions were a start. I did Google both girls. The only findings for my oldest are in the obituaries of her great grandparents. My youngest has a few more entries, mainly due to volleyball and her work on her middle school yearbook. After this, I feel better about protecting their digital footprint a little better.

Reflecting on my daughters and their digital habits does make me think about YouTube, partly because they use it as one of their main music sources. Sometimes I worry that they spend too much time on YouTube. That is part of the reason I chose it for my video project. While doing research, I started to realize how much YouTube touches on so many elements of digital citizenship. YouTube, since it is a video platform, can teach people about all of the elements. Accessibility has increased due to YouTube, especially since it gives voice to anyone who can make a video. I think my daughter learned about K-pop music from YouTube, which would not have happened otherwise. I think that is cool. Commerce is directly related to YouTube, as creators can be paid and companies are using YouTube as a means for advertising. That is one way YouTube uses watch history - to offer suggested videos and personalized ads are selected. While it can be useful, it also makes it easy to spend hours on YouTube without meaning to. This can affect a user's health since too much time on a screen can hurt eyesight and nutrition/exercise can be forgotten. Overall, I think YouTube has been good for the internet, with the benefits outweighing any issues.