

**DIPLOMA IN MEDIA AND
COMMUNICATION**

MCG 604

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

WEEK 9

**Paperless Society and General Trends in
Technology**

Paperless Society

Paperless society is a product of different technologies and applications. These include optical disks to internet to multimedia productions.

In short, in paperless society, all the information is created, exchanged and stored in an electronic format.

A paperless society does not depend on paper for any form of documentation or data recording.

Advantages of a Paperless Society

Creation of an enhanced system. Information is read, stored and retrieved with accuracy.

New software tools are used to send documents across without having to convert them to any other formats.

A lot of physical space is saved since paper files occupy a lot of storage space.

Less paper leads to less trees to be cut down for production of paper. So, it benefits the environment and also reduces wastage of material.

Advantages of a Paperless Society

Since information can be quickly transmitted electronically, reviewing of documents is very fast and easy.

Electronic documents can be easily revised and updated.

Paperless society saves money. A lot of money is saved in handling, packing, transporting and other charges.

A new market is created for sale of CD, DVDs, pen drives, etc. for electronic mass storage.

Everyone can connect to others globally by own web-site.

Literally every information can be shared between users.

Advantages of a Paperless Society

Electronic information is elastic. It can be stored diversely and communicated through different retrieval methods.

Finding exactly a particular part of the data or document or information is very fast and easy using electronic retrieval method. It saves a lot of time.

There is access to unlimited information available on the internet, with just a click of the mouse. So, research of topics becomes easier (it minimises the research time).

Problems with Paperless Society

Paper is still the required choice for certain activities. People still like to read newspapers, books and documents printed in paper.

There are no problems with hardware or software conflicts.

Machine operated devices may create problems during operation, they may not be very reliable and may not be accessible all the time.

Special skills are needed to access and operate the devices that store the electronic documents.

Electronic documents can be subjected to hacking and violation of privacy.

New Trends

Nanotechnology

Speech (voice) recognition

Biometrics

Convergence between technologies

Development of integrated information and entertainment highways

Further development in personal communication tools

The consumer now is the producer of information

Concerns about New Technologies

Can electronic tools used for information become a distraction rather than aid?

With the introduction of VR and other cutting edge technologies, will people become divorced from reality?

Will people spend more time online than in real world? (this is already becoming true)

What about intellectual property rights, digital manipulations, email privacy?

Concerns about New Technologies

How can we protect children from the unwanted material obtained online?

How do we draw a line between freedom of information and censorship?

What happens to countries that cannot afford to use the new technologies?

Can new technologies violate the fundamental rights of people? If so how can they be addressed?