Aging and Technology in 2050

When asked to predict what technology and aging would like like in the future, one can assume that the aging population will be growing larger and larger. Ageism will remain a large problem in the United States, as many older adults move to "senior towns" like Sun City, Arizona and Sun City Center, Florida.

Cyber Seniors is a program through the St. Lawrence County BOCES Office for the Aging. Each week we taught seniors about:

- Different computer programs and websites
- How to navigate Google
- Ways to stay safe on the internet

These classes allowed older adults to learn more about computers and to feel more confident in what they were doing.

It turns out you can teach an old dog new tricks. In the past few years, more and more older adults have been entering the world of technology and quickly learning to enjoy it. They can now use Skype, Facebook, and email to keep in touch with their out of town family members.

In 2012, AARP started a subscription service that gives members unlimited access, either in-store, online, or by phone, to Geek Squad agents from Best Buy. They guide these older adults on which devices and programs to buy, how to install and use those programs, and are there if to help if any problems arise (Span, 2013).

In 2050, older adults will still most likely be confused by the constantly changing technology, but there will greater accessibility to computers and technology education. The technology that this cohort grew up has been replaced and now the older adults are afraid to ask for help with the new technology, for fear that they may be a burden. Based on a positive outlook for the future of aging and technology, I'm predicting that:

- Discount computers will be available to older adults that have been retired for 10 years or who are over the age of 75.
- Cyber Seniors classes will be available at every town hall/BOCES program around the country. Classes will be taught by volunteers.
- Nursing homes and assisted living facilities will also have Cyber Senior classes in their computer labs.
- If an older adult can prove that they are proficient in technology and can keep up with changes, then they will be eligible to receive a discount from the cable company providing their Wi-Fi.

Overall, older adults will take longer to adapt to the rapidly developing technology. However, there will be greater access and better resources for education.

References: