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 Class

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.

The Future of Aging

SOC245: What's So Bad About Aging?

Natalie Wall

The Digital Age Barrier

Age shouldn't be a barrier to being online, however, in 2013, only 53% of Americans 65 and older were using the internet (Span, 2013). As society relies more and more on technology, digital exclusion will turn into social exclusion.

Older cohorts may benefit most from the internet, since they are often isolated due to poor transportation and physical limitations. Lifting the digital barrier, by providing better access to technology and computer classes, will give older adults the opportunity to interact with the world through internet.

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks" has been a stereotype that has affected the the aging population, especially when it comes to learning about technology. Due to the criticism and negativity, many older adults are afraid to ask questions about computers, ultimately creating a digital age barrier.

Currently, more and more computer classes for older adults are becoming available. In these classes, older adults become more familiar with computer programs and the internet, thus becoming more confident in their computer skills.

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).

References:
- Morrison, Janet, and Andrew Barnett. Older People, Technology, and Community: The Potential of Technology to Help Older People Renew or Develop Social Contacts and to Actively Engage in Their Communities.