

**In the 1990's (and even before), there was a great deal of discussion regarding the paperless office. Some industry pundits and futurists predicted that within a short period of time, paper would become a legacy product in many organizations. Yet today, the reality seems quite different and, in fact, businesses are consuming and churning out more paper than ever.**

**What is your own position on this subject? Do you think a paperless office is a viable concept? Why or why not?**

I am certain the paperless office is a viable concept; however, it will only come to fruition with the passing of generations. I see this in my own office all the time. The “old-timers” won’t read anything off a screen. Give them a research article to read, and they will print out a book’s worth of pages and read them at their desk with the original article still displayed on the screen. Bookmarking websites or saving webpages to the local drive seems too impermanent to them, they must have an individual, physical copy for their records.

It’s not just the older generations either. My Generation X, myself included, still has issues with reading off a computer. I download free e-books all the time, but rarely read them when I have a choice between reading off a screen and purchasing a book. Every book I buy contraindicates the goal of going paperless.

Eventually, I am certain, there will be a paperless office; however, old habits die hard, and my generation and the older generations will probably have to pass into retirement or be forced through new standards into adapting to a fully electronic system.