Speech 06

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Technically Lost

In 1991 I found myself without employment. My job skills were now obsolete, even though I could type, file, and do general bookkeeping. While I was not looking someone out there put computers in all local offices. I did not have the necessary skills to establish employment. Everywhere I went to seek employment I was asked about computer skills and knowledge. Finally, I realized the need to return to college. I thought it would be just another machine to learn to operate and if you can type or drive a car you can learn computers. Guess how wrong I was. I decided to take a crash course at my local college. I felt this would be all I would need and I would return to work. When class began the instructor said, turn to chapter three. I was lost from the beginning. I was not familiar with the terminology or any of the equipment the instructor was lecturing on. I had set myself up to fail and soon became desperate. I did not know where to turn so I started calling friends and asking questions but this was not getting me through my dilemma. Finally a good friend of mine, the President of the Columbia County Friends of the Public Library, suggested the computer club which taught classes at the local library. Skeptical but desperate, I decided to try the library along with the local college. The volunteers at the Columbia County Library Computer Club taught me the basics of computer operation, and a special volunteer family tutored me through my college classes. I received an "A" in my crash course and was able to secure a job in the Purchasing Department for Alachua County. I found the Columbia County Public Library to be the House of Information that helped me find my way through the technical jungle.

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