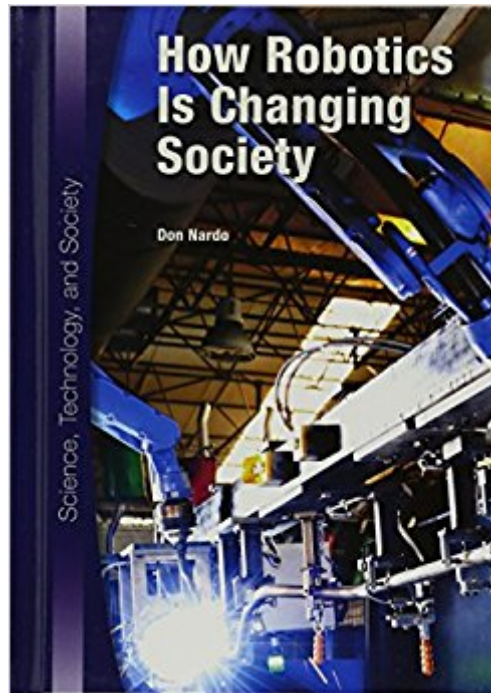


The book was found

How Robotics Is Changing Society (Science, Technology, And Society)



Synopsis

Virtual assistants such as Siri can keep us informed and help us manage our daily life. Robots work in factories, deliver packages, and clean our floors. Someday "sociable robots" may care for the elderly or disabled and even provide companionship to lonely people. However even as this technology offers new capabilities and greater convenience, it threatens our jobs and perhaps even our identity as human beings.

Book Information

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Gr 8 Up-Without historical perspective to draw on but also seldom daring to go out on speculative limbs, the authors of these studies of potentially world-changing technological innovations limit themselves largely to current but conventional overviews of their subjects and catalogs of known hazards and ethical issues. Allen, for instance, lays out the value of gene modification not only for the treatment of disease, but for obesity and even depression-but aside from noting that it could also artificially enhance athletic performance makes only a few vague cautionary statements about the possibilities for designer babies. Along with arguing that industrial robots are actually creating jobs (but saying nothing about the often low quality and insecure nature of said jobs), Nardo expresses skepticism about whether true artificial intelligence is possible. Still, the information in each volume is up to date, and each is well furnished with statistical data, study questions, and leads to further resources. VERDICT Solid additions. Where topics overlap, these may serve as complementary updates to the publisher's pro-and-con "Thinking Critically" series (2013). (c) Copyright 2011.

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