

CHANGING THE CRAFT ON CRAFT RECIPES

From the Recipe Box to the World Wide Web. *By Anthony Jackson*

One are the days where we could go in Grandma's cabinet to search for her secret recipes. The joy and memories that little box held were precious. It allowed her to weave magic anytime she wished, slowly stitching together many of my childhood memories. Now everything's online. That feeling of warmth and human connection seems smothered by the never ending wave of memes and Tik-Tok. But the question is, is that actually a bad thing? When did this change come about? Who did it affect? And how has it affected people since the little box moved from grandma's cabinet to the world wide web? I had the chance to gather and compare some evidence to see if we are missing something from the days of old, or if we are actually weaving magic of our own into something new.



Sharing recipes online has changed a nation.

The first recipe ever recorded was found in Sumeria and it told of how to make beer all the way back in the 14th century. Afterward, different countries started making their own recipes and collectively they created the first “cookbook”. This concept continued into the founding of the Americas, as the first American cookbook was published in 1796 by Amelia Simmons in Hartford, Connecticut, which is how we ended up with grandma's little stash.

The only way to get said stash, was to call mom or grandma and ask if they could give it to you. This interaction created a bond that was everlasting. It allowed you to check up on them and chit-chat, but in the end you still got the recipe. That's not the case anymore, according to an article written by Bee Wilson, who states “today ‘food is an open source’, rather than something whose mysteries should be jealously hoarded. Chefs are no longer judged by their ‘secret recipes’ but by how often their top dishes are shared, photographed and copied.” (Wilson, The Guardian)

With that being said, it seems possible that recipes online can be a good thing. People are getting along, and they are able to share part of their history, their culture, and their memories... and that works.

I had the opportunity of connecting with a food blogger named Sally from Sally's Baking Addiction, and asked her thoughts on crafting recipes online. She stated, “I love how putting recipes online has

affected everyone; every time I post a new recipe, I feel a piece of myself is given for the world to see. I'm sharing so much of my family and my culture, and when it's done, I feel like I blew a dandelion seed into the world for it to grow somewhere else.” (Sally, Sally's Baking Addiction)

Moving forward, we can see how sharing recipes online has changed a nation. Kim Severson, a writer for the New York Times, states how moving recipes online has made readers more informed and prepared in the following quote:

“Editors say that the form the material takes has to change to better match a generation of cooks who need less hand-holding and have access to better ingredients.” (Severson, New York Times)

The revelation of the internet gave people new recipes they never heard of before, and made them better equipped to make them.

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With that, the new generation had the opportunity to do something more with the food they brought to the table than ever before, and they became smarter as people during the process. With these new recipes they had to find new ingredients, stirring the pot of creativity in their minds, allowing them to create more and more recipes. This is

supported by a food columnist named J. Kenji López-Alt, who says “One of the great things about recipes today is that you can assume a great amount of knowledge, which lets

you go in a lot of directions.” (Kenji López-Alt, New York Times)

In looking at the evidence provided, it seems that we aren't replacing grandma's recipes, but creating our own. We are creating something that is our own. We are creating something new, together... and that seems to be the greatest recipe of all.



With access to recipes online, a new generation has the opportunity to do more with what they bring to the table.