

Day 4, Oh, so *that's* what a phone book is for.

Today my dad was set to fly in for a brief visit from Albuquerque. Today was also the day that system that dumped tons of snow on Colorado made its way down to Dallas and shut down both airports for half the day. Typical. The flight was delayed, diverted to Austin, and then delayed again. We set out for the airport three times before successfully bringing him home.

I was on the phone with a friend on my last trip out to get him, bemoaning the inconvenience of not being able to check Southwest.com for up to the minute info on his flight. She asked me, "Well, don't they have a number you can call to find out about delays?"

"I'm sure they do, but I don't know what it is, and it's not like I can look it up online," I said. I figured if I really needed it, I could play the small fortune to call 411 from my cell phone.

When we finally got home with my dad, I nearly tripped over the recycling bin by the garage door as I balanced Kendall on one hip. "Ugh. These STUPID phone books! They are such a waste." I thought as I pushed the bin aside.

I really dislike the incessant phone book deliveries. It seems like we get a new one every month, and all I can think of is all the poor trees that give up their lives to become a makeshift booster seat or a doorstop, or, in our house, earn a one way ticket to the recycling bin. Who the heck even uses a phonebook these days anyway? Oh, yeah, people who don't use the internet, I guess. Of course, that didn't even occur to me until later tonight when I saw them sitting there again while taking out some boxes. Duh.

I wonder if phonebooks are to the internet like an abacus is to a calculator? Will phonebooks be pushed aside, forgotten about and left behind for more advanced technology? Haven't they already? Will children of future generations ever understand how to use something so seemingly simple because it's become so obsolete? I bet, ten years from now, if I asked Kendall to go look something up in a phonebook he'd give me the same look I'd give someone right now if they asked me to look something up in an encyclopedia... or use the Dewey Decimal System.