

Money, Money, Money, Money! MONEY! As you read these words you probably know that I grew up in the 60s and 70s, where most kids had a Piggy Bank, chores, got an allowance, went to the bank or Savings & Loan and were able to go to the corner store with the change they had saved up for a special treat. This O'Jays song taught us about the good and bad of money. The information in their song somewhat applies today, but to be realistic, times have changed and are continuing to change. We were taught many things at home, but now basic knowledge and education on life & financial matters are being shifted to the schools. But I have always expressed that all learning does not happen within the four walls of an institution. Personal exploration, life experiences, hands-on opportunities, one-on-one and group interactions/exchanges in social settings are key to overall financial literacy success. You can say that most Boomers have basic money knowledge, but utilizing financial technology tools in banking, budgeting, and investment is not their forte. But delving into the comparison, acquisition, implementation, and evaluation of the Top 5 technology tools, seniors can make better choices that help them be financially secure/stable.

While preparing for my essay, I concluded that I do not have to recreate the wheel, that there are massive amounts of information to assist me in accomplishing my financial goals and maintaining some manner of (mental & financial) stability in this uncertain climate. I have to take the advice and nonverbal direction of my millennial children and just commit to learning by trial and error the financial tools that will make my life easier. Everything is at our fingertips in more ways than one. There is a mindset collision with senior citizens as we converge on utilizing financial technologies for our daily transactions versus writing checks, for instance. "In 2022, there were 57.8 million people who were 65+. By year 2030, all Baby Boomers will be 65+ and in 2040, there will be 78.3 million in that age group." So, you can see the importance of creating financial technologies that seamlessly integrate with senior realities & experience in mind (ease of use, visible text, hearing, dexterity). With the Gen X & Millennials following the Baby Boomers, it should be easier for them to maneuver the financial technologies they have been exposed to during this Information Age. In conclusion, continuous and seamless training of financial technology tools should be a part of our population's (early childhood to late adulthood) lifelong learning process going forward in our various centers of learning, regardless of socio-economic status, language, and prior perception of technology.

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<https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-older-americans/>