

AAC: Austrian Academy Corpus

The Dead Media Project

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Texts & Files: Using Corpora and Digital
Archives / Editions

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Bruce Sterling

- The Dead Media Project (1995)
<http://www.deadmedia.org>

“The DEAD MEDIA Project:
A Modest Proposal and a Public Appeal.”

Sterling from 1995

- “Plenty of wild wired promises are already being made for all the infant media. What we need is a somber, thoughtful, thorough, hype-free, even lugubrious book that honors the dead and resuscitates the spiritual ancestors of today's mediated frenzy. A book to give its readership a deeper, paleontological perspective right in the dizzy midst of the digital revolution. We need a book about the failures of media, the collapses of media, the supercessions of media, the strangulations of media, a book detailing all the freakish and hideous media mistakes that we should know enough now not to repeat, a book about media that have died on the barbed wire of technological advance, media that didn't make it, martyred media, dead media. THE HANDBOOK OF DEAD MEDIA. A naturalist's field guide for the communications paleontologist.”

“The Life and Death of Media”

- “The Life and Death of Media.” Speech at Sixth International Symposium on Electronic Art ISEA '95 Montreal September 19 1995.

http://www.alamut.com/subj/artiface/deadMedia/dM_Address.html

Macintosh Powerbook 180 (1995)

- “This computer is a Macintosh Powerbook 180. An impressive machine, isn't it? I dote on it, personally. I admire that name -- PowerBook. It says a lot about the kind of rhetoric our culture cherishes in the 1990s. The name "PowerBook" somehow suggests that this device can *last* as long as a book, though even the cheapest paperback will outlive this machine quite easily.”

Extracts

- “When we are surfing the web in 1995, we are surfing on a vast dark sea of dead computers. We have to surf, you see –because we are just a white scrim of foam up on the surface. The waves of machines rolling in beneath us are moving in with the hideous relentlessness of Moore's Law, doubling in power every eighteen months, one order of magnitude a decade. If you are working on a cutting-edge computer today you are working on one percent of the cutting-edge computer you will have twenty years from now.”

Extracts

- “You see ladies and gentleman, we live in the Golden Age of Dead Media. What we brightly call *multimedia* provides an a whole galaxy of mutant recombinant media, most of them with the working lifespan of a pack of Twinkies. Mastering a typical CD-ROM is like mastering an entire new medium by using a frozen watch-cursor. And then the machine dies. And then the operating system dies. And then the computer language supporting that operating system because as dead as the Hittite language. And in the meantime, our entire culture has been sucked into the black hole of computation, an utterly frenetic process of virtual planned obsolescence.”

Dead Dead Media Project

- Joe Kissell, “Dead Media: Preserving Past Communication for the Future,” (19 April 2005)
<http://itotd.com/articles/524/dead-media>

Dead Media Taxonomy

- Phil Sandifer (University of Chicago), *Dead Media Taxonomy Model* (2004)
<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/faculty/mitchell/taxonomy/taxonomysandifer.htm>