



## The Edition as Hypertext

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## Percy Bysshe Shelley “The Devil’s Walk”

Donald H. Reiman  
Neil Fraistat  
Created 1997

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## “The Devil’s Walk”

- o “The Devil’s Walk”
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/shelley/devil/>

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## The “Devil” to Edit

- *The “Devil” to Edit: Time, Space and Hypertextuality*
  - Neil Fraistat
  - MOO Conference / 18 October 1997
  - <http://otal.umd.edu/~msites/dwtalk.html>

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## Value of Hypertext Editions

- 4 Key Points
  - Accessibility
  - Searchability
  - Extensibility
  - Interactivity

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## Letterpress / Online Edition

- Different properties between the pair:
  1. Temporal
  2. Spatial

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● ● ● | **Temporality of Editions**

- Letterpress edition exhibits:
  - Slow Time
  - Monumental Time
- Online edition exhibits:
  - Fast Time
  - Fluid Time

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● ● ● | **Slow / Monumental Time**

- Slow
  - Essential feature of the production of the letterpress edition
    - Printed once and distributed
    - Rarely, if ever, updated/corrected
- Monumental
  - More ambitious
    - Designed to last a generation of readers

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● ● ● | **Fast Time**

- Fast time
  - Literally change overnight
  - Corrected continuously
  - Expanded
  - Split

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## “Fluid” Time

- Fluid time
  - Editions as “ephemera”
    - Can be temporary, maybe simply experimental
- Editions are always “work-in-progress”
  - No formal closure
  - Static is not finality

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## Spatiality of Editions

- Fixed
- Macrospatial
- Hyperspatial
- Microspatial

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## Letterpress Editions

- Fixed
  - Physical Object
  - Bounded
  - Contents Static

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● ● ● | Online Editions

- Macrospatial
  - Can include contextual material
  - Furthermore, material in a variety of carriers
    - Sound
    - Images
    - Video
- Hyperspatial
  - Link to remote resources through the Internet

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● ● ● | Online Editions

- Microspatial
  - Quantitative threshold removed
  - Smaller micro editions now possible
  - Access to “blocked” material
  - Focus can be narrowed and the boundaries of material to be edited can be expanded

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● ● ● | Issues / Questions

- Online editions dissolve the material boundaries of the letterpress edition
- Where then does an electronic text end?
- An electronic text can be seen to have no boundaries, capable of infinite addition

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## Who is the Editor? What is Editorship?

- o What is the nature and role of “The Editor” in such a hyperspatial environment?
  - “[...] a term whose unitary and proprietary force is opened up to the multiple and collaborative forms of knowledge production of the Web.”

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## Linking

- o Links in the www are two-way
  - Possible for others to link *to* your site.

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## Romantic Circles

- o Romantic Circles Electronic Editions
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/>
- o Romantic Circles Praxis Series (RCPS)
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/praxis/>
- o Romantic Circles Pedagogies
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/pedagogies/>
- o Online Teaching Texts
  - Prospectus of Teaching Editions
  - <http://www.rc.umd.edu/pedagogies/teachingtexts/index.html>

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