

AAC: Austrian Academy Corpus

Hypertext

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Texts & Files: Using Corpora and Digital
Archives / Editions

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What is Hypertext?

- “By Hypertext I mean nonsequential writing—text that branches and allows choice to the reader, best read at an interactive screen.”

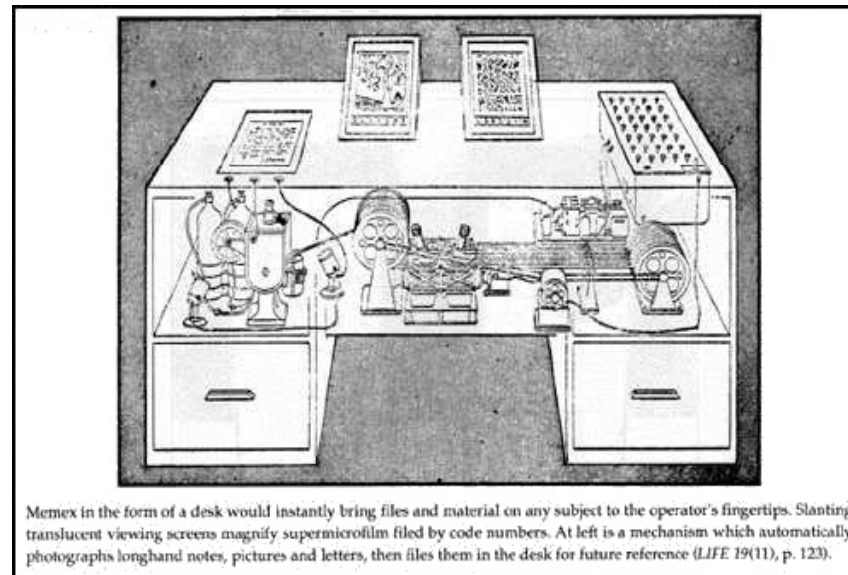
Ted Nelson, 1965

MEMEX

- Vannevar Bush, “As We May Think,” *The Atlantic Monthly*, July 1945.

<http://www.ps.uni-sb.de/~duchier/pub/vbush/vbush.shtml>

MEMEX



MEMEX

- “Consider a future device for individual use, which is a sort of mechanized private file and library. It needs a name, and to coin one at random, ‘memex’ will do. A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory.”

MEMEX

- “It consists of a desk, and while it can presumably be operated from a distance, it is primarily the piece of furniture at which he works. On the top are slanting translucent screens, on which material can be projected for convenient reading. There is a keyboard, and sets of buttons and levers. Otherwise it looks like an ordinary desk.”

MEMEX

- “In one end is the stored material. The matter of bulk is well taken care of by improved microfilm. Only a small part of the interior of the memex is devoted to storage, the rest to mechanism. Yet if the user inserted 5000 pages of material a day it would take him hundreds of years to fill the repository, so he can be profligate and enter material freely.”

MEMEX Concepts

- **Links**
- **Linkages**
- **Trails**
- **Web**

Project Xanadu

- Ted Nelson
<http://ted.hyperland.com/>
- Xanadu Archive
<http://xanadu.com/XUarchive/>

Hypertext

- Numerous systems were developed that utilised these concepts of non-linear reading, “browsing.”
- Manual systems of indexing on “5 x 3” cards predate electronic hypertext systems

HyperCard

- Hypertext as application
- From “5 x 3” cards to Stacks...
- Bundled with the Mac OS
Hypertalk as a scripting language

Foucault

Archaeology of Knowledge

- “[...] frontiers of a book are never clear-cut [...] it is caught up in a system of references to other books, other texts, other sentences: it is a node within a network ... [a] network of references.”

Barthes

S/Z

- Link
- Node
- Network
- Web
- Path

George Landow

- Victorian Web
<http://www.victorianweb.org/>
- Migrations of the Victorian Web:
 - Intermedia (A/UX)
 - Storyspace (“Poor Man’s Intermedia”)
 - HTML

George Landow

- “Electronic links connect lexias "external" to a work—say, commentary on it by another author or parallel or contrasting texts—as well as within it and thereby create text that is experienced as nonlinear, or, more properly, as multilinear or multisequential. Although conventional reading habits apply within each lexia, once one leaves the shadowy bounds of any text unit, new rules and new experience apply.”

Tim Berners-Lee

- “WorldWideWeb: Proposal for a HyperText Project” (1990).
<http://www.w3.org/Proposal.html>

Rationale

- “The application of a universal hypertext system, once in place, will cover many areas such as document registration, on-line help, project documentation, news schemes and so on. It would be inappropriate for us (rather than those responsible) to suggest specific areas, but experiment online help, accelerator online help, assistance for computer center operators, and the dissemination of information by central services such as the user office and CN and ECP divisions are obvious candidates. WorldWideWeb (or W3) intends to cater for these services across the HEP community.”

HTML

- **H**ypertext **M**arkup **L**anguage
- “HTML is the *lingua franca* for publishing hypertext on the World Wide Web.”
<http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/>