

Infusing Bibliography and Book History with Hyper-Textuality: A Course for Undergraduates

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**Sample response questions, for in-class writing**

1. How is Barthes' 'Death of the Author' different from McGann and McKenzie's 'sociology of the text'? Briefly summarize the article before presenting a basic and simple comparison of the two theories.
2. How does Holland's 'Scraps, Stamps and Cutouts' suggest McKenzie's 'sociology of the text'? How does the use of Dickinson's scraps suggest the Foucauldian theory of author-function?
3. Explain *mal d'archive* from Derrida's *Archive Fever*. Use the concept with a real life example with which you are familiar.
4. McGann discusses the implications of 'hyper' in 'Rationale of Hypertext' while Landow discusses 'virtual.' How are these terms different? Compare and contrast the differences between McGann and Landow's concepts of the digital world.
5. We've come full circle in our discussions back to the 'book' in the digital world. In an essay response *in your own words*, describe the future of the 'book' as both a material object and theoretical concept. In your thoughts, what is the future of the 'book'?
6. What does our Blackboard site say about our experience together? Assess it as a hypertextual archive. (See Student Responses attached to Schedule, 6/30)
7. What is Haraway's definition of a 'cyborg'? Why has the 'Cyborg Manifesto' been included in a class on textuality?

Sample discussion board questions

1. Experiencing HTML (after finishing HTML Exercise)

Question: You should have completed the WebMonkey introduction to HTML and sent that document to me. Spend a moment constructing a paragraph (or two) response about your experience. Consider the following questions: Was the tutorial helpful? Did you create some code in a Word document? Did you have any trouble writing the code and then viewing the document in a web browser? Did you run into any problems creating the document, using the Macs, uploading it to Blackboard? Are you now wondering how all of the gibberish turns into a hypertext page?

2. Special Collections Library Visit

Question: During the Curator's presentation, he showed us the various forms of the book, from simple designs to advanced bindings which required technology to be developed. This presentation raises questions about the codex format: what is a book?; why did its form evolve? In a paragraph response, describe the meaning of a 'book' (either from personal experience, your own thoughts or based on the presentation today). In another paragraph response, pick one 'book' and write about what you think its impact would have been on its readers. How did the design influence its reception or its usefulness? Did the materials impact the 'reading experience'? Do we use this design/material/process today in modern 'books'? Why or why not? In another paragraph response, describe why you chose this 'book' on which to write. Did you remember it because of something striking? Have you seen a similar one? (See Student Responses, at Schedule, June 10)

3. History of the Book (McGann & McKenzie)

Question: Don McKenzie began the revolution in bibliography by instituting the concept, 'sociology of the text.' Jerome McGann has been McKenzie's largest advocate in this revolution and has carried the concept even further in his studies on hypertext (which we'll discuss later). In the articles 'The Book as an Expressive Form' and 'The Socialization of Texts,' both McKenzie and McGann discuss the process of creating signs through the production of a 'book.'

In order to more fully understand these two articles, respond to the following: Write three questions in response to this Discussion Board thread.

Your questions should be about the two articles mentioned above and should be more thoughtful/in-depth than asking for the definition of a word. Each student will then read through everyone's questions and respond to at least one question written by another student.

Your response should be at least a paragraph long. The responses may include direct responses to the questions, examples/experiences, further questions to complicate the original question, etc. On Tuesday morning, take a moment to read through the responses. Bring your three questions (and any responses) to class on Tuesday in order to continue the 'conversation.'

4. Foucault Battles Barthes

Question: Yesterday, we discussed the 'scriptor' model and the 'reader-as-space' theory that Barthes proposes in 'Death of the Author.' Today, we read Foucault's 'What is an Author.' In a brief response, describe your understanding of Foucault's author-function. Compare the role of the author in Foucault to the role of the scriptor in Barthes.

Note: The following day, they returned to these posts to revise or respond to another's. See Student Responses attached to Schedule, June 16.