



authors,
authority, reputations

then and now

**Quality of Information
October 3**

housekeeping?



the story so far

infoenthusiams

quantity vs quality

rotten information

economics & quality
institutions

literacy

author



the story so far

infoenthusiams

quantity vs quality

rotten information

economics & quality
institutions

literacy

author



the story so far

infoenthusiams

quantity vs quality

rotten information

economics & quality
institutions

literacy

author



the road ahead

assumptions about authenticity
letting go of the author
rotten information & the author function
death of the author
Foucault
rise of the author
authorial brands
back to the net
back to Foucault



author and origin

Problems of
authenticity

Problems of
reliability and
"authoritativeness"

anchors in a dirty world

What happened with blogs and with wikis, these
editable web spaces, was that they became much
more simple. ...

there's a certain ethos within the blogging
community, you always point to your source, you
point all the way back to the original article.

If you're looking at something and you don't
know where it comes from, if there's no pointer
to the source, you can ignore it.

Tim Berners-Lee

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/
4132752.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4132752.stm)



authors not authority

"The real experts do not believe in the
fallacy of appeal to authority."

--Jimmy Wales



author, authority, authentic,

Wikis, mashups and Web 3.0

authentic, *a.* (and *n.*)

SECOND EDITION 1989

PRONUNCIATION

SPELLINGS

ETYMOLOGY

QUOTATIONS

DATE CHART

A. *adj.*

†1. **a.** Of authority, authoritative (*properly* as possessing original or inherent authority, but also as duly authorized); entitled to obedience or respect. *Obs.*

1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7116 Saint Austyn..Whase wordes er auctentyke. 1382 WYCLIF *Isa.* Prol., No goostli vndurstondyng is autentik, no but it be groundid in the text opynli. a1420 HOCCEVE *De Reg. Princ.*



author, authority, authentic,

author, *n.*

SECOND EDITION :

Pronunciation

Spellings

Etymology

Quotations

Date chart

1. *gen.* The person who originates or gives existence to anything: **a.** An inventor, constructor, or founder. Now *obs.* of things material; exc. as in b.

Wikis, mashups and Web 3.0

authentic, *a.* (and *n.*)

SECOND EDITION 1989

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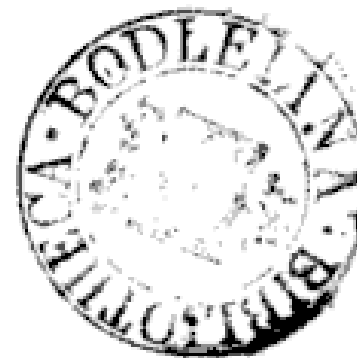
1340 HAMPOLE *Pr. Consc.* 7116 Saint Austyn..Whase wordes er auctentyke. **1382** WYCLIF *Isa.* Prol., No goostli vndurston dyng is autentik, no but it be groundid in the text opynli. **a1420** HOCCEVE *De Reg. Princ.*



a robust category?

THE WARDEN.

BY
ANTHONY TROLLOPE.



The Bishop of Barchester	32
CHAP IV	51
CHAP V	65
more »	

+ Popular passages

[Page 17](#)

M'Culloch. — A Dictionary, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, of the various Countries, Places, and Principal Natural Objects in the World. By...
[753 books \(1796-2006\)](#)

[Page 11](#)

Grf. The Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament; Being an attempt at a Verbal Connexion between the Greek and the English Texts; including...
[494 books \(1831-2003\)](#)

[Page 17](#)

Sir James Mackintosh's History of England from the Earliest Times to the final Establishment of the Reformation. Library Edition, revised by the Author's...
[241 books \(1844-2003\)](#)

[more »](#)



authors & works

PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, BROWN, AND CO.		15
Low's Elements of Practical Agriculture; comprehending the Cultivation of Plants, the Husbandry of the Domestic Animals, and the Economy of the Farm. New Edition; with 200 Woodcuts. 8vo. 21s.	Sir James Mackintosh's History of England from the Earliest Times to the final Establishment of the Reformation. Library Edition, revised by the Author's Son. 2 vols. 8vo. price 21s.	
Macaulay.—Speeches of the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, M.P. Corrected by Himself. 8vo. price 12s.	Mackintosh.—Sir James Mackintosh's Miscellaneous Works: Including his Contributions to the Edinburgh Review. Complete in One Volume; with Portrait and Vignette. Square crown 8vo. price 21s. cloth; or 30s. bound in calf.	
Macaulay.—The History of England from the Accession of James II. By THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY, New Edition. Vols. I. and II. 8vo. price 32s.	*. * Also a NEW EDITION, in 3 vols. fcap. 8vo. price 21s.	
Mr. Macaulay's Critical and Historical Essays contributed to the Edinburgh Review. Four Editions, as follows :—	M'Culloch.—A Dictionary, Practical, Theoretical, and Historical, of Commerce and Commercial Navigation. Illustrated with Maps and Plans. By J. R. M'Culloch, Esq. New Edition; embracing a large mass of new and important information in regard to the Trade, Commercial Law, and Navigation of this and other Countries. 8vo. price 50s. cloth; half-crown.	
1. LIBRARY EDITION (the Seventh), in 3 vols. 8vo. price 32s.		

+ Popular passages

Page 17

M'Culloch. — A Dictionary, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, of the various Countries, Places, and Principal Natural Objects in the World. By...
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Page 11

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[494 books \(1831-2003\)](#)

Page 17

Sir James Mackintosh's History of England from the Earliest Times to the final Establishment of the Reformation. Library Edition, revised by the Author's...
[241 books \(1844-2003\)](#)



who is an author

Shakespeare

"not of an age but for all time?"

"our ideas on the integrity of Shakespeare's identity predicated on notions of single authorship; in fact Elizabethan theatre was far more like cinema today; scripts were passed around among journeymen and fledglings to fill in gaps"

Stanley Wells, "Shakespeare & Co."

between 1598 and 1602, Thomas Decker "a hand in over forty plays, including script doctoring and revising both his own plays and those of others." --DNB



literati or digerati?

open source

Table 1: Top 10 authors ranked by contribution of code

Author	% of total
free software foundation	11.231
sun microsystems	1.848
regents of the university of california	1.359
gordon matzigkeit	1.216



letting go of the author

"The author is a modern figure, a product of our society insofar as, emerging from the Middle Ages with English empiricism, French rationalism, and the personal faith of the Reformation, it discovered the prestige of the individual

"... capitalist ideology, which has attached the greatest importance to the 'person' of the author"

Roland Barthes, 'The Death of the Author', 1968



Barthes and beyond

"Like contemporary critical theory, hypertext
reconfigures--rewrites--the author ... the
figure of the hypertext author
approaches ... that of the reader ...
hypertext ... infringes upon the power of
the writer.

George Landow, *Hypertext*



not so fast

"A certain number of notions that are intended to replace the privileged position of the author actually seem to preserve that privilege and suppress the real meaning of his disappearance.

"It is not enough ... to repeat the empty affirmation that the author has disappeared. Instead we must locate the space left empty by the author's disappearance, follow the distribution of gaps and breaches, and watch for the openings that this disappearance uncovers"

--Foucault, 'What is an author', 1969



locating the author

"pure romanticism"?

Tasini vs *New York Times*

the author's due?



[The Epoch Times
Ireland](#)

[Guilds Ask Screenwriters for Strike Authorization](#)

New York Times, United States - Oct 1, 2007

By MICHAEL CIEPLY LOS ANGELES, Oct. 1 — Unions representing 12000 screenwriters asked members on Monday to authorize a strike at any time after their ...

[Hollywood union asks writers to authorize strike](#) Reuters UK

[Studios, networks braced for strike](#) C21Media

[all 28 news articles »](#)



locating the author function

penal appropriation?



Varieties of Rotten Information

Problems of authenticity: fakes, hoaxes, forgeries, plagiarism, etc.

Problems of quality: reliability and “authoritativeness” --

Problems of “pollution”: pornography, hate speech, subversive writing, etc.

False alarm: iPhone NOT delayed until October, Leopard NOT delayed again until January

Posted May 16th 2007 11:49AM by [Ryan Block](#)

Filed under: [Cellphones](#), [Desktops](#), [Laptops](#)

fakes & hoaxes



Update:

Here's the story. A trustworthy source supplied us with an actual internal Apple email that went out to thousands of Apple employees earlier today (published after the break). The fact that this was an email sent within Apple's internal email system to its employees is not in question. Let us reiterate: this was an ACTUAL email distributed within Apple's internal email system to Apple employees.

As it turns out, the internal memo Apple employees received was actually retracted by Apple shortly after it was sent out. (Also published after the break.) We received confirmation from Apple PR that this initial email sent out to Apple employees was incorrect, and they let us know that the iPhone and Leopard are both still on track, and should meet their expected launch timeframes.

~~This one doesn't bode well for Mac fans and the iPhone-hopeful: we have authority that as of today, the iPhone launch is being pushed back from October (!), and Leopard is again seeing a delay, this time being pushed way back to January. Of 2008. The latest WWDC Leopard beta will still be out, but it looks like Apple-quality takes time, and we're sure Jobs would tell everyone that it's not always about "writing a check", but just how much time these two products really going to take?~~

Presumably Apple is now on the hunt for whomever was able to spoof its internal email system.

Original Apple email

From: Bullet News

Date: May 16, 2007 9:09 AM CDT

To: [redacted]

Subject: Mac OS X Leopard and iPhone Delayed

Mac OS X Leopard Delayed Until January



Ti



forgeries

authors & authenticity

ARF STATEMENT OF POINTS EARNED

PAGE 1 OF 1

L9CHPY 48

TD	PTS	VOL	COURSE	FROM DATE	TO DATE	TD	PTS	VOL	COURSE
29	2	004							
14	2	008							
06	2	006							
10	2	006							
08	2	004							
03	1	003							
10	1	003							
20	2	004							
24	1	003							

INACTIVE DUTY

Active Duty

9 days AD
32 day IAD
15 grat
56 points

Memos on Bush Are Fake but Accurate, Typist Says

By THE NEW YORK TIMES

Published: September 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Bush, George W. 1st Lt. 3244754FG
Suspension of Flight status

1. On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination (flight) as ordered.
2. I conveyed my verbal orders to commander, 147 th Ftr Introp Gp with request for orders for suspension and convening of a flight review board IAW AFM 35-13.
3. I recommended transfer of this officer to the 9921 st Air Reserve Squadron in May and forwarded his AF Form 1288 to 147 th Ftr Introp Gp headquarters. The transfer was not allowed. Officer has made no attempt to meet his training certification or flight physical. Officer expresses desire to transfer out of state including assignment to non-flying billets.
4. On recommendation of Harris, I also suggested that we fill this critical billet with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated. Recommendations were received but not confirmed.

[Signature]
TERRELL D. WILLIAMS

forgeries

authors & authenticity

ARF STATEMENT OF POINTS EARNED

PAGE 1 OF 1

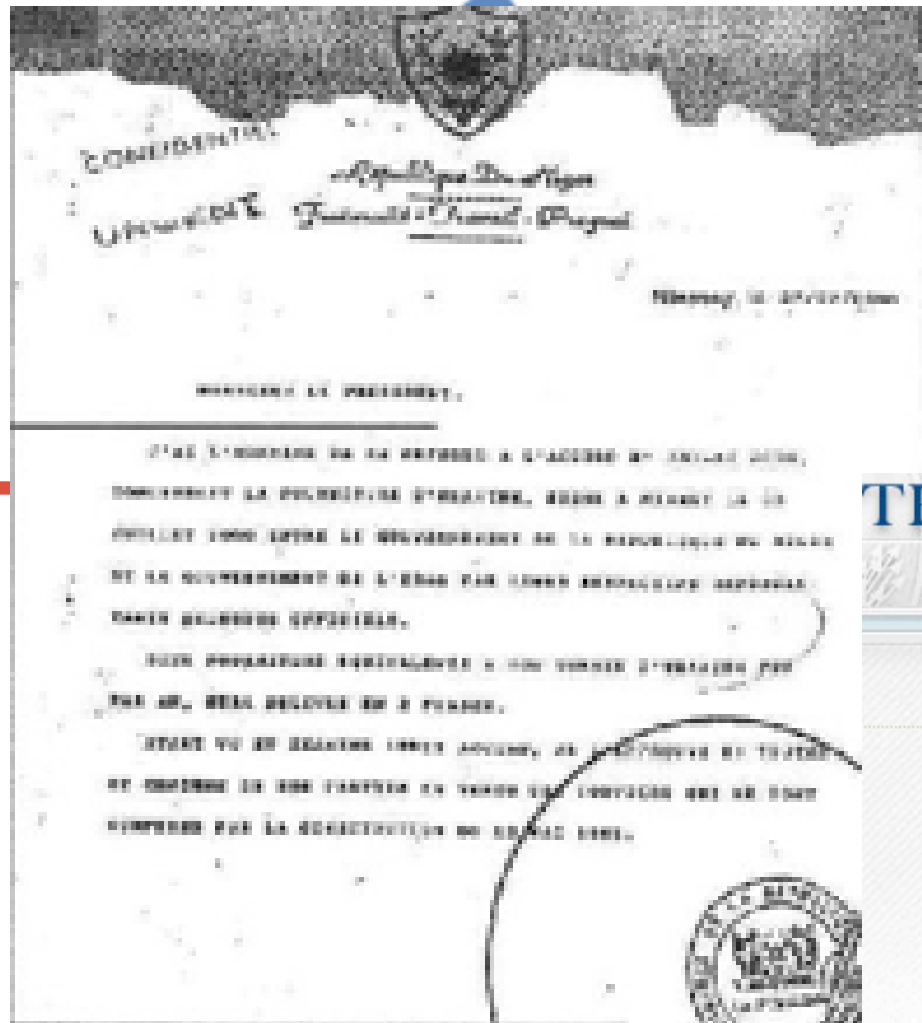
LSCHPY 48

TD	PTS	VOL	COURSE	FROM DATE	TO DATE	TD	PTS	VOL	COURSE
29	2	004							
14	2	008							
06	2	006							
10	2	006							
08	2	004							
03	1	003							
10	1	003							
20	2	004							
24	1	003							

INACTIVE DUTY

Active Duty

9 days AD
32 day IAD
15 grat
56 points



authorial responsibility

THE WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

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Printer-Friendly Version Email This Page

State of the Union **President George W. Bush**

For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
January 28, 2003

President Delivers "State of the Union"
The U.S. Capitol
9:01 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, members of Congress, distinguished citizens and fellow citizens: Every year, by law and by custom, we meet here to consider the state of the union. This year, we gather in this

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in the 1990s that Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a nuclear weapon and was working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb. The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa. Our intelligence sources tell us that he has attempted to purchase high-strength aluminum tubes suitable for nuclear weapons production. Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities. He clearly has much to hide.

INTELLIGENCE

STATEMENT BY GEORGE J. TENET DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 July 2003

Flawed stem cell data withdrawn

15 February 2007
NewScientist.com news service
Peter Aldhous and Eugenie Samuel Reich

It is one of the best-known stem cell papers in the past five years, describing adult cells that seemed to hold the same promise as embryonic stem cells. Now, following inquiries by **New Scientist**, some of the data contained within the papers is being questioned.

In 2002, a team led by Catherine Verfaillie of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, described "multipotent adult progenitor cells" or MAPCs, isolated from the bone marrow of rodents (*Nature*, vol 418, p 41). These cells seemed able to develop into most of the body's tissues.

Previously, only embryonic stem cells (ESCs) had proved so versatile, and the work was seized upon by opponents of ESC research, who claimed it showed similarly versatile cells could be harvested without destroying human embryos.

The results proved hard to repeat in 2003 even Verfaillie's own group. **New Scientist** looked more closely, and its supplementary information published at about the same time even though they were supposed to be from different mice. The plots described cells supposedly characteristic

Cancer study patients 'made up'

A cancer expert invented patients for a study which concluded taking common painkillers could protect against oral cancer, it is alleged.

Dr Jon Sudbo reportedly made up patients and case histories for the study published in highly-respected *Lancet* medical journal last October.

Dr Sudbo has not commented publicly on the claims.

But a spokeswoman for Oslo's Norwegian Radium Hospital, where he works, said he had admitted falsifying data.

The revelation comes just days after work published in the journal *Science* by South Korean cloning expert Hwang Woo-suk was revealed as fabricated.

Hospital spokeswoman, Trine Lind said: "We are shocked. This is the worst thing that could happen in a research institution like ours."

Stein Vaaler, director of external relations at the hospital, added: "He published an article in *The Lancet* in October last year whose data is totally false, actually totally fabricated.

"His database had been completely fabricated on his computer."



Aspirin was among the drugs studied

“ This is the worst thing that could happen in a research institution like ours ”
Trine Lind

fraud

who is the author?

“Multiple co-investigators have become the norm, and a result is that old concepts of authorship - which, when there was but one author, automatically linked credit with accountability - have eroded”

Drummond Rennie, MD



plagiarism

Joseph Biden
Doris Kerns Goodwin
Stephen Ambrose
Alan Dershowitz
Michael Bellesiles

Who was the author?

Professor Goodwin's explanation for the plagiarism involved faulty note taking habits, not just on her part, but on the part of four research assistants who help write her books.

These faulty note taking habits made it difficult, she explained, for them to distinguish between notes containing their own analysis and notes summarizing analysis they find in books written by others.



hat tip to gracenote

The New York Times
nytimes.com

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February 17, 2007

A Pianist's Recordings Draw Praise, but Were They All Hers?

By [ALAN RIDING](#)

PARIS, Feb. 16 — In the autumn of her life, decades after she had last performed in public, the British pianist Joyce Hatto was rediscovered by a small group of musicians and critics who contended that her recordings of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and others ranked alongside those of the 20th century's most exceptional virtuosos.

When she died last June at 77, some of those same enthusiasts again proclaimed her to be a neglected genius, in glowing obituaries written for British newspapers. In The Guardian, the music critic Jeremy Nicholas described her as "one of the greatest pianists Britain has ever produced."

Mr. Nicholas and others, it seems, had accepted the explanation for her lack of renown among music lovers: a long battle against cancer had forced her to abandon her concert career in 1976 and led her to devote her energy to recording all the great works in the piano repertory, from Scarlatti to Messiaen, for the small British label Concert Artist.

"Joyce Hatto must be the greatest living pianist that almost no one has ever heard of," Richard Dyer wrote in The Boston Globe in 2005.

But now Ms. Hatto's reputation for excellence and originality has been shaken by a charge of plagiarism. Gramophone, the London music monthly, has presented evidence that several of the recordings issued under her name were in fact copied from recordings of the same music by other pianists.



an enduring category?

plagiarism: an eternal crime

`"Plagiarism is perennial ... 'the
wrongful appropriation, or
purloining, and publication of
one's own, of the ideas, or the
expression of the ideas ... of
another"`

Christopher Ricks



on plagiarism

"Ricks ... believes that Martial is protesting against the theft of his work, and he translates plagiarius as "the abductor of the child or slave of another". If this gloss were accurate, Ricks would have good grounds for his interpretation of Martial's metaphor, but in fact the primary meaning of plagiarius is "one who illegally slaves another". The word carries the sense of the improper subjugation of a person who is properly free, and thus the epigram actually means the opposite of what Ricks says it means. The "Plagiary" is not criticised for stealing Martial's work, but for asserting ownership over a published piece of literature, thus illegitimately "enslaving" what rightfully belongs to the public domain. The epigram does not condemn what we know as "plagiarism" but implicitly sanctions it."

David Hawkes



mashups of the past

An Essay on MILTON'S IMITATION of the MODERNS.

AN ingenious * gentleman having some years ago published a small treatise intitled *An Essay on Milton's imitation of the Ancients* which was very favourably received both here and at Edinburgh, where, ~~it was~~ written: I have after his example, adventured to publish the few following observations by way of *Essay on Milton's Imitation of the Moderns*; having lately happen'd to cast my eye on four or five modern authors in *Latin Verse*, whom I have reason to believe Milton has consulted in composing his glorious poem, *PARADISE LOST*, no less than the ancients. And if my conjecture shall appear founded on reason, the novelty of the subject, I hope, will, instead of excluding me from, rather entitle me to the favour of the reader. But here I ~~leave~~ leave to premise, in order to prevent mistakes and misconstructions, that by

"Shall we forever make new books as apothecaries make new mixtures, by pouring only out of one vessel into another? Are we forever to be twisting and untwisting the same rope?"

Laurence Sterne,
Tristram Shandy, 1761-7



Problems of
pollution

Out of place?

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The New York Times

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A Prosecution Tests the Definition of Obscenity



Stacia Spragg

Mary Beth Buchanan is seen as the government's most aggressive opponent of pornography.

by NEIL A. LEWIS

Published: September 28, 2007

PITTSBURGH — Sometime early next year, Karen Fletcher, a 56-year-old recluse living on disability payments, will go on trial in federal court here on obscenity charges for writings distributed on the Internet to about two dozen subscribers.



rumours of my death

Roland Barthes, 'The death of the author', 1968

The author is a modern figure, a product of our society insofar as, emerging from the Middle Ages with English empiricism, French rationalism, and the personal faith of the Reformation, it discovered the prestige of the individual

capitalist ideology, which has attached the greatest importance to the 'person' of the author

the explanation of a work is always sought in the man or woman who produced it





births & deaths

"I do not, like a *jure divino* Tyrant, imagine that they are my slaves or, my commodity"

Henry Fielding,
Tom Jones, 1749

the text is a tissue of quotations

To give a text an Author is to impose a limit on that text, to furnish it with a final signified, to close the writing

a text's unity lies not in its origin, but in its destination

the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author

--Barthes



not dead yet

Foucault, 'What is an author?' **1969**

in agreement

The author is a modern figure --Barthes

The coming into being of the notion of "author"
constitutes the privileged moment of
individualization in the history of ideas,
knowledge, literature, philosophy, and the
sciences.

--Foucault



author and authority

more agreement

Once the Author is removed, the claim to decipher
a text becomes quite futile. To give a text an
Author is to impose a limit on that text
--Barthes

A certain number of notions that are intended to
replace the privileged position of the author
actually seem to preserve that privilege and
suppress the real meaning of his disappearance
--Foucault



what is a work?

A familiar thesis that the task of criticism is ... to analyze the work through its structure... a problem arises: "What is a work?"

Even when an individual has been accepted as an author, we must still ask whether everything he wrote ... is part of his work ... a laundry list:
Is it work or not?

It is not enough to declare that we should do without the writer (the author) and study the work in itself. The word "work" and the unity that it designates are probably as problematic as the status of the author's individuality"



multiple authors

and the mode of existence

the author's name performs a certain role with regard to narrative discourse, assuring a classificatory function ... to characterize a certain mode of being of a discourse ... in a civilization like our own, there are a certain number of discourses that are endowed with the "author function" while others are deprived of it. A private letter may well have a signer; it does not have an author; a contract may well have a guarantor, it does not have an author. An anonymous text posted on a wall probably has a writer, but not an author. **The author function is therefore characteristic of the mode of existence, circulation, and functioning of certain discourses within a society**



functioning authors

St Jerome & unity

- (1) if one is inferior to the others
- (ii) if certain texts contradict the doctrine expounded in the author's other work
- (iii) different style
- (iv) events that occurred after the author's death

discharging the canon

Shall I die?

A lover's complaint

revisions



diplomatics

Jean Mabillon (1632-1707)

De Re Diplomatica, 1681

a forger's charter?

the charter of La Tour d'Auvergne
"skilfully forged by a sublibrarian who
ended his days in the Bastille"

--David Knowles





four characteristics

appropriation

linked to the juridical and institutional system

neither universal nor constant

does not affect all discourses the same way

complex not spontaneous

not defined by the spontaneous attribution of a discourse to its producer, but rather by a series of specific and complex operations

a particular source of expression

it does not refer purely and simply to a real individual



the *rise* of the author?

The author is a modern figure --Barthes

discourses are objects of appropriation ...

penal appropriation. Texts ... began to
have authors ... to the extent that authors
became subject to punishment

--Foucault



supply chains

Allgemeines Oeconomisches Lexicon (1753)

Book, either numerous sheets of white paper that have been stitched together in such a way that they can be filled with writing; or, a highly useful and convenient instrument constructed of printed sheets variously bound in cardboard, paper, vellum, leather, etc. for presenting the truth to another in such a way that it can be conveniently read and recognized. Many people work on this ware before it is complete and becomes an actual book in this sense. The **scholar and the writer, the papermaker, the type founder, the typesetter and the printer, the proofreader, the publisher, the book binder, sometimes even the gilder and the brass-worker, etc.** Thus many mouths are fed by this branch of manufacture.



whose name?

1546 printer's name in books

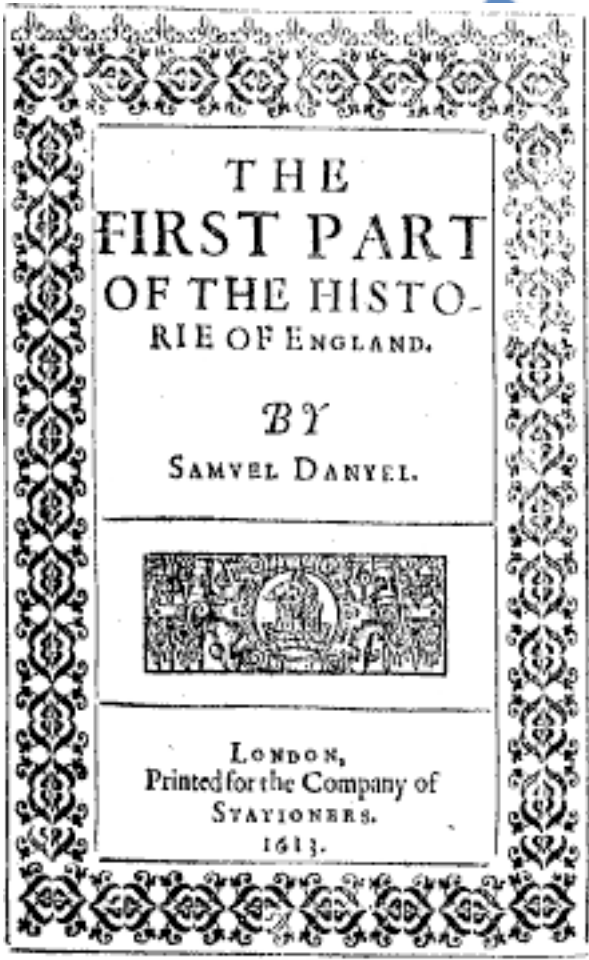
1557 stationers' company charter

1559 stationers' patent
on bible, music, law, almanacs

1642, end of Star Chamber

1660, Restoration
struggle for control

His NAME at the Bottom
of a Title Page, does
sufficiently recommend



whose name?

1546 printer's name in books

1557 stationers' company charter

1559 stationers' patent

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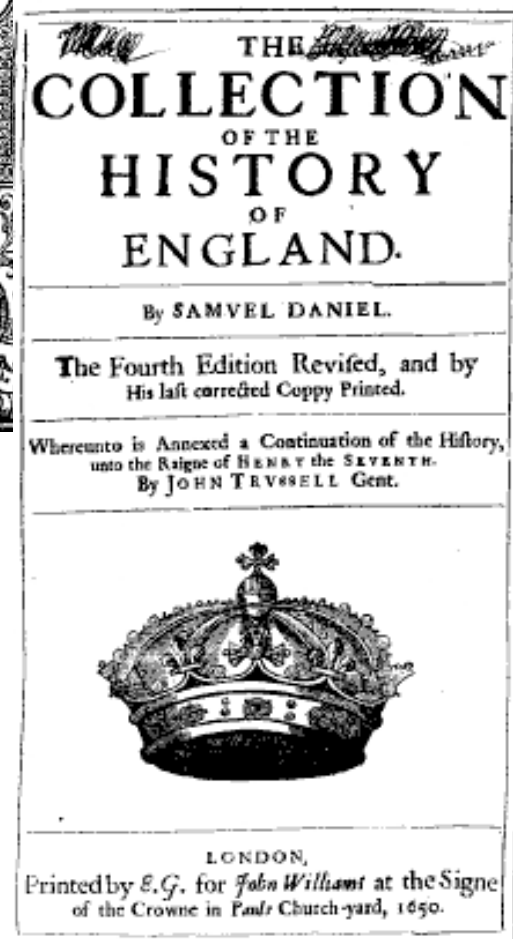
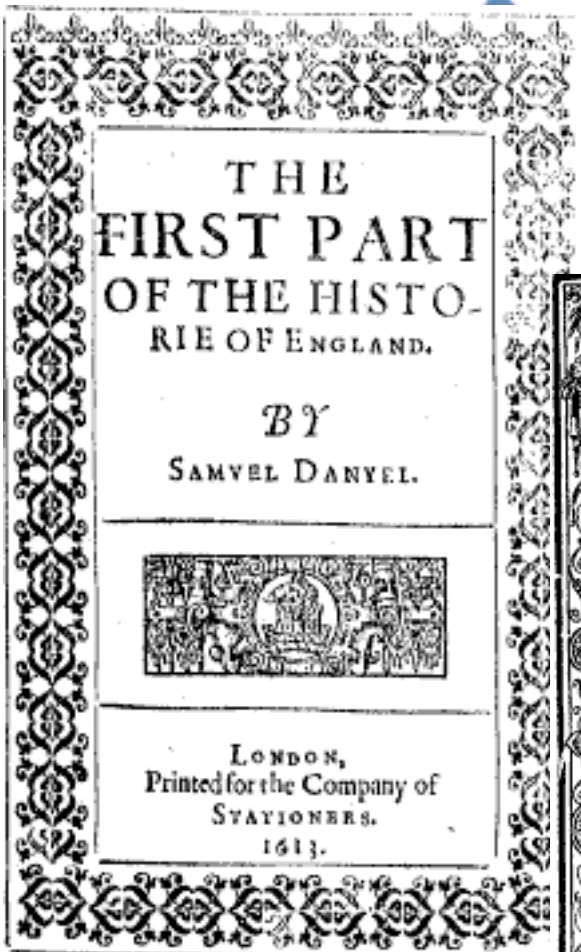
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stationers' patent

c, law, almanacs

f Star Chamber

60, Restoration

ggle for control

His NAME at the Bottom
of a Title Page, does
sufficiently recommend

THE
FIRST PART
OF THE HISTO-
RIE OF ENGLAND.

BY
SAMVEL DANYEL.



LONDON,
Printed for the Company of
STAYIONERS.
1613.

THE
COLLECTION
Of the History of
England:

By S. D.



LONDON,
Printed for Simon Waterson.
1625.

Can Privilegio.

THE
COLLECTION
OF THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND.

By SAMVEL DANIEL.

The Fourth Edition Revised, and
His last corrected Coppy Printed.

Whereunto is Annexed a Continuation of the Hi-
story unto the Reigne of HENRY the SEVENTH.
By JOHN TRUSSELL Gent.



LONDON,
Printed by E.G. for John Williams at the Signe
of the Crowne in Pauls Church-yard, 1650.

THE
COLLECTION
OF THE
HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND.

By SAMUEL DANIEL.

The Fifth Edition Corrected.

With a Continuation of the History, unto the Reigne of
HENRY the SEVENTH,
By JOHN TRUSSELL.

LONDON,

Printed by F. Leach, for Rich. Chiswell, Benj. Toole, and Tho.
Sandridge, and are to be Sold by Will. Whitwood, next
the Crown Tavern in Duck-lane. MDCCLXXV.



enter the autonomous author

"We must not think to
make a staple
commodity of all the
knowledge in the
Land, to mark and
licence it like our
broad cloath, and our
wool packs"

- Milton

1694/5 end of licensing act

1709/10 Statute of Anne

"printers attacking early piracies tend to focus public arguments on the supposed poor quality of the piracy, as if the only injury done was to the reader and to the reputation of the printer; piracy damages a market in durable good. --Joseph Loewenstien, *The Author's Due*

A Books is the Author's Property, 'tis the Child of his Invention, the Brat of his Brains; 'tis as much his own as his Wife and Children [but] these Children of our Heads are seiz'd, captivated, spirited away, and carry'd into Captivity" --Defoe

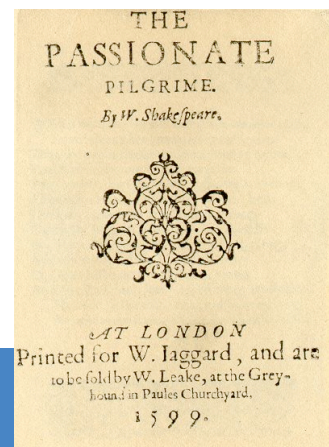


last man standing

"The author is an instrumental convenience in regulatory struggles being carried on within the book trade." -- Joseph Loewenstein

It might be said that the London booksellers invented the modern proprietary author, constructing him as a weapon in their struggle with the booksellers [printers? or publishers?] --Mark Rose

the invention of the author as proprietor ... is directly linked with the claim for the perpetuation of an old system of privileges ... [not] from a new bourgeois conception of the property and the market



liability to asset

O, for my sake do you with Fortune chide,
The guilty goddess of my harmful deeds,
That did not better for my life provide
Than public means which public manners breeds.
Then comes it that my name receives a brand,
And almost thence my nature is subdued
To what it works in like the dyer's hand.

Sonnet 111

"The stationers made 'Shakespeare'"
--Lucas Erne



brand power

"The name as an individual **trademark** ..."
Foucault

"The author-work relation is embedded in library catalogues, the indexes of standard literary histories.... It is pervasive in our education system ... institutionalized in our system of marketing cultural products ... the name of the author **becomes a kind of brand name.**"

Mark Rose, *Authors & Owners*

neither universal...

who brands the chain?

publishers - printers - editors - authors

producer - director - actors - screenwriter

stations - networks - production companies - directors - actors - writers

record company - producer - musicians - singers - songwriters

company - director - actors - playwright

other genres

dictionaries, encyclopedias, romances, translations ...

who becomes an author?



... nor constant

academic branding

"He was Lambert Strether because he was on the cover, whereas it should have been for anything like glory, that he was on the cover because he was Lambert Strether."

--Henry James, *The Ambassadors*



complex construction

science vs social science

Foucault vs Chartier

Newton vs Marx & Freud

the discourse of the founders ... do not
participate in the practice's transformations

... Re-examination of Galileo's text may well
change our knowledge of the history of
mechanics [but not of] mechanics itself
--Foucault



roots of scientific publishing

Steven Shapin, *A Social History of Truth*

"I will write my Name
in each Book with my
own Hand"

Desaguliers,

*Course of Experimental
Philosophy*, 1734

"Our thoughts and beliefs 'pass,' so long as
nothing challenges them, just as bank-notes
pass so long as nobody refuses them."

William James, *Pragmatism*

**trust in
matters of fact
books
people**



copy and quality again

1774 Donaldson v Becket

booksellers lose
"common law" right to copy.

'systems of constraint'?

quality editions

English Poets
encyclopedias
dictionaries
Shakespeare



copy and quality again

1774 Donaldson v Becket

booksellers lose
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English Poets
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Shakespeare



quality again?

"The wild side of the Internet typified by blogs and fast-running rumors could be tempered by the heft of these libraries".

San Francisco Chronicle


"Google's newest project .. will help fulfill the original intention of the Internet: to help people find solid background facts quickly".

Chicago Sun-Times

"Most of today's online content was 'born digital, thus cannot be verified. By contrast, library materials become available through Google originate from fully authoritative sources, and cover every conceivable topic since the advent of printing".

Michigan Library Press Release

uncertain reputation

posted by Juan @ 9/01/2006 06:33:00 AM 7 comments 

Google and Michigan's Library


Google books is an astonishing, epochal development. But I am tired of journalists who write about it ignoring the fact that the core of the digitized collection is the **7 million volumes** at the University of Michigan. It is always mentioned that Harvard and Oxford are participating. Last I knew, Oxford offered them access to 40,000 volumes.. But **U-M President Mary Sue Coleman offered Google access everything we have**, and has been good at giving the project an intellectual rationale. Google is going through the shelves and running optical character recognition on every book they encounter, in every language.

One problem: I am already finding poorly done books, where every other page is blurred beyond reading. This is very bad because I don't know when it would ever be corrected, and no one would have an incentive to carry out this sort of project once Google has.

I hope Google will tighten its quality control, and will commit to redoing flawed scanning jobs. For many research projects, only if everything is



uncertain reputation

posted by Juan @ 9/01/2006 06:33:00 AM 7 comments 


HARVARD LIBRARIES

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HARVARD LIBRARIES

Google books is an astonishing, epochal development. But I am tired of journalists who write about it ignoring the fact that the core of the digital library is still a work in progress. It is not just the quality of the scanning that is the problem, but the fact that the project is still in its infancy. The New York Public Library is not going to be giving the project any more money, and Google is going through the shelves and running optical character recognition on every book they encounter, in every language.

One problem: I am already finding poorly done books, where every other page is blurred beyond reading. This is very bad because I don't know when it would ever be corrected, and no one would have an incentive to carry out this sort of project once Google has.

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The New York Public Library

Bodleian Library
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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New Google Service May Strain Old Ties in Bookselling

By EDWARD WYATT

Published: October 8, 2004

FRANKFURT, Oct. 7 - [Google](#) Print, the new search engine that allows consumers to search the content of books online, could help touch off an important shift in the balance of power between companies that produce books and those that sell them, publishing executives said here on Thursday.



I 695 again

July 15, 2005 8:38 AM PDT

More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's [Print for Libraries](#) service keep on coming from the nonprofit publishing sector. Now the [Association for Learned and Professional Society Publishers](#), which represents non-profit publishers such as university presses in more than 30 countries, is taking aim at the legality of Google's service. By publishing complete digital copies of various works without consulting with the publishers, Google is clearly violating copyright law, the ALPSP alleges in a July [statement](#).

Google wasn't always in the wrong, the ALPSP notes. The two parties collaborated on "full-text indexing" of online publications in Google's [Print for Publishers](#) feature, and the ALPSP encouraged its publishers to participate in the venture. But Google had no right to

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July 15, 2005 8:38 AM PDT

More backlash for Google Print

Attacks on Google's [Print for Libraries](#) service keep on coming from the

Prof **BBC NEWS** WORLD EDITION

Last Updated: Wednesday, 21 September 2005, 05:25 GMT 06:25 UK

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Authors sue Google over book plan

A US writers' group is suing internet search engine Google, claiming that its plan to digitise major library book collections infringes author copyright.

The Authors Guild has filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The lawsuit seeks class action status, seeks damages and demands an injunction against further infringements.

Google said it regretted the Authors Guild action, asked for more talks, and claimed its plans benefited writers.



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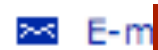
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Last Updated: Wednesday, 21 September 2005, 05:25 GMT 06:25 UK



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BBC News in video and audio

Last Updated: Wednesday, 19 October 2005, 23:10 GMT 00:00



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Printable version

Google is sued by book publishers

Internet search engine Google is being sued by a group of book publishers over plans to put millions of titles online.

The Association of American Publishers, which includes firms such as Penguin, has filed a suit in New York claiming Google will infringe their copyrights.

As part of its Print Library Project, Google plans to index and scan millions of books from five major libraries.

Google countered that the lawsuit was "short sighted", claiming its idea will lift exposure and demand for books.



Google reckons its plans will increase awareness and sales of books.

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Last Updated: Wednesday, 21 September 2005, 05:25 GMT 06:25 UK

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BBC NEWS [OPEN](#) **BBC News in video and audio**

Last Updated: Wednesday, 6 September 2006, 05:31 GMT 06:31 UK

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Google opens up 200 years of news

Web giant Google is further expanding its online empire with the launch of the Google News Archive Search.

The web-based tool allows users to explore existing digitised newspaper articles spanning the last 200 years and more recent online content.

People using the search are shown results from both free and subscription-based news outlets.

Partners in the project include the websites of US newspaper the New York Times and the Guardian from the UK.



The news archive search is one of several new Google services

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July 15, 2005 8:38 AM PDT

More backlash for Google Print

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Belgian Court Tells Google to Drop Newspaper Excerpts

By PAUL MELLER

Published: September 19, 2006

BRUSSELS, Sept. 18 — A court ordered [Google](#) to remove on Monday all links to French- and German-language newspaper reports published in Belgium after an association of local publishers won a case that accused the company of violating the country's copyright laws.

I 695 again



back to the author function

the author is the principle of thrift in the
proliferation of meaning

... a certain functional principle by which
in our culture one limits excludes, chooses;
in short by which one impedes the free
circulation, the free manipulation, the free
composition, decomposition, and recomposition
of fiction
--Foucault



back to the future

I think that, as our society changes, at the
very moment when it is in the process of
changing, the author-function will
disappear, and in such a manner that fiction
and its polysemic texts will once again
function according to another mode, but
still with a system of constraint--one which
will no longer be the author . . .

--Foucault



kinds of change

For a long time, the unity of a book had
nothing to do with an absent author ... [but]
depended upon the will of a reader who
desired to join diverse works ...

... it was during the 14th century ... this
traditional and dominant definition of the codex
was replaced by a new conception of the book,
offering the works of only one author
... the author function is not only a discursive
function, but also a function of the materiality
of the text



last words

What are the modes of existence of this
discourse?

Where has it been used, how can it circulate,
and

who can appropriate it

. . . What difference does it make who is
speaking?