

search and storage

thinking around information

Concepts of Information

April 24, 2012

overview

**Bush's information
backward projection
association
disorganization
open and closed**



as we may think

Bush's information?

When **data** of any sort are placed in storage, they are filed alphabetically or numerically, and **information** is found (when it is) by tracing it down from subclass to subclass.

We know that when the eye sees, all the consequent **information** is transmitted to the brain by means of electrical vibrations in the channel of the optic nerve.

The impulses which flow in the arm nerves of a typist convey to her fingers the translated **information** which reaches her eye or ear, in order that the fingers may be caused to strike the proper keys. Might not these currents be intercepted, either in the original form in which **information** is conveyed to the brain, or in the marvelously metamorphosed form in which they then proceed to the hand?

mind the gap: 18th-20th Century

"unable to comprehend in what manner body can
act upon spirit"

-- Berkeley, *Treatise*, 1710

(responding to Locke & Newton)

to

"one great comprehensive law shall be found to
govern both the material and the intellectual
world"

--Priestley, "Introductory" p. xxviii to
Hartley's *Theory of the Human Mind*.1790.

overview

Bush's information

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open and closed

backward projection

cultural historians

"every age was an age of information, each in its own way ... hearsay did not satisfy Parisians with their powerful appetite for information"

--Robert Darnton,

"An Early Information Society," 2000

"coping with information overload, ca 1550-1700"

--Ann Blair, 2003

perennial concern

economic historians

"the technology and culture of *access to information*"

--Joel Mokyr, *Riches of Athena*, 2002

Alfred Chandler & James Cortada,
A Nation Transformed by Information, 2002

**A N A T I O N
T R A N S F O R M E D
B Y I N F O R M A T I O N**
HOW INFORMATION HAS SHAPED THE UNITED STATES FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT
EDITED BY ALFRED D. CHANDLER, JR.
JAMES W. CORTADA



perennial loosening

presentism to determinism

"The need for readily available information, which had been steadily rising, was accelerated by the advent of Christianity.

...

"The need to find information more rapidly than is possible in a papyrus-roll-form book initiated the development of the Greco-Roman codex in the second century ..."

-- Frederick Kilgour,
Evolution of the Book, 1998

anthropologists, too

"The search for information... the central
experience of life in the bazaar

--Clifford Geertz,

"The Bazaar Economy: Information
and Search in Peasant Marketing," 1978

where's the information?

dissenting voice

modus operandi vs opus operatum

--Pierre Bourdieu,

Outline of a Theory of Practice, 1977

modus operandi

fighting presentism

"what early modern people--rather than the present author and his readers--considered to be knowledge. ... A history of concepts ... is an indispensable part of this enterprise ... changes in the meaning of older terms ... social contexts ... original associations."

--Peter Burke, *The Sociology of Knowledge*, 2000

hold 'em and fold 'em?

"we will use the term 'information' ...
relatively 'raw,' specific and practical, while
'knowledge' denotes what has been 'cooked,'
processed, or systematized by thought ...

"Librarians ... brought information to the
notice of their colleagues....

"Oldenburg...[noted] information coming into
London."

--Burke, *The Sociology of Knowledge*



what Oldenberg noted

"Relations ... Collections ... Reports ...
Instructions ... Essays ... Extracts ..
Entries ... *Monthly Advices* ...
Enlargements of our *Philosophical*
Correspondencies many
particulars ...ingenuities ...
Observations, Experiments and Inventions."

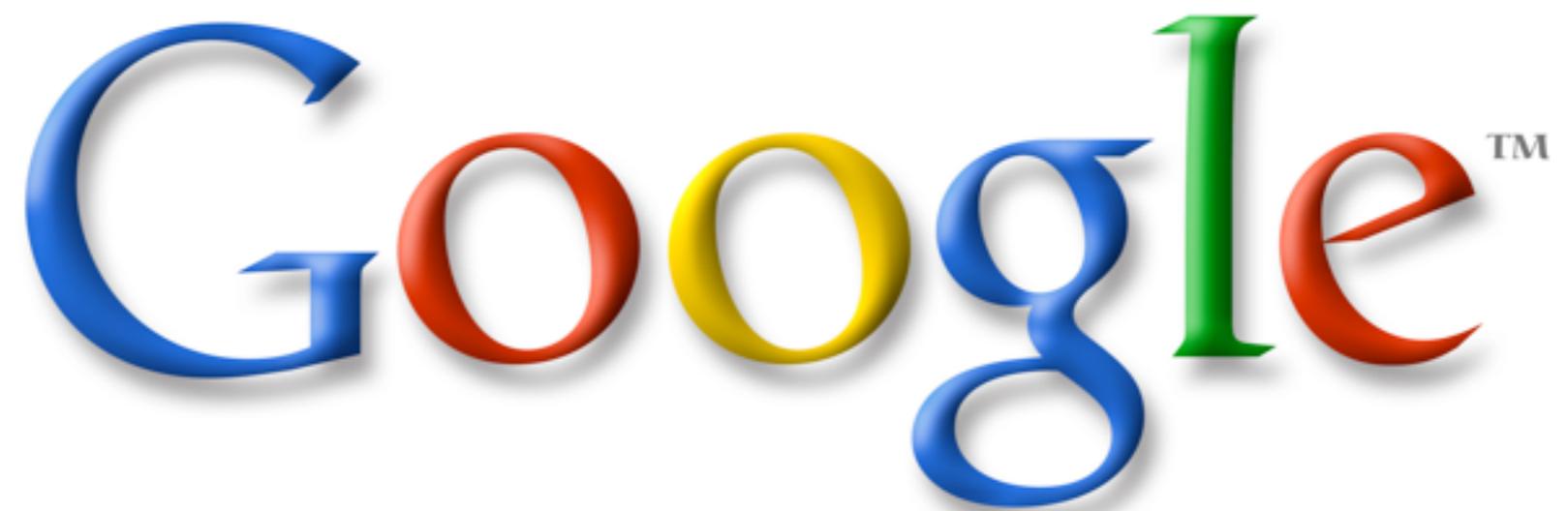
--Oldenburg, *Philosophical Transactions*,
1666-7

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"selection by association"

a new organization



"To organize the world's information"

MO vs OO or SEO

MO vs OO?

managing information

hierarchy and markets

Eric Raymond, "The **Cathedral** and the **Bazaar**," 1998

cathedrals

state

v. Giddens on surveillance and storage

library

"Books are portrayed as information containers, libraries as information warehouses"



books unchained

"The external make-up of a book, its format and the personality of its author are unimportant provided that its substance, its sources of information and its conclusion are preserved and can be made an integral part of the organization of knowledge, an impersonal work, created by the efforts of all ... to strip each article or each chapter in a book of whatever is a matter of fine language or repetition or padding and to collect separately on cards whatever is new and adds to knowledge."

Paul Otlet, "Something about bibliography," 1893

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immaterial

"A book—or, for clarity's sake, let's say a work of literature—is impervious to the constraints of its physical medium. ... every instance of "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" is identical. Whether you read it in a cheap paperback or a first edition, on a computer monitor, an e-reader, or in Yeats' own handwriting, it's the same poem."

--Jim Lewis, *Slate* Oct 2010

punctuated liberation

Clay Tablet	First Punctuation	2500 BC
Papyrus Roll	Second Punctuation	2000 BC
Codex	Third Punctuation	AD 150
Printing	Fourth Punctuation	1450
Steam Power	Fifth Punctuation	1800
Offset Printing	Sixth Punctuation	1970
Electronic Book	Seventh Punctuation	2000

-- Frederick Kilgour,
Evolution of the Book, 1998

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correct punctuation

	paper	codex	printing	typography
China				
Korea				
India				
Japan				
Jews				
Byzantium				
Islam				
Europe				

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correct punctuation

	paper	codex	printing	typography
China	1-2c bce			
Korea	3c			
India	6c			
Japan	7c			
Jews	10c			
Byzantium	1c			
Islam	9c			
Europe	12-13ce			

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correct punctuation

	paper	codex	printing	typography
China	1-2c bce	7c [sutra]		
Korea	3c	7c[s]/20c		
India	6c	7c [s]		
Japan	7c	8c [s]		
Jews	10c	7-10c		
Byzantium	1c	8c		
Islam	9c	7c		
Europe	12-13ce	1-5c		

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Korea	3c	7c[s]/20c	8c	
India	6c	7c [s]	18-19c	
Japan	7c	8c [s]	8-11c	
Jews	10c	7-10c	14c	
Byzantium	1c	8c		
Islam	9c	7c	19c	
Europe	12-13ce	1-5c	14c	

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India	6c	7c [s]	18-19c	18-19c
Japan	7c	8c [s]	8-11c	16c
Jews	10c	7-10c	14c	15c
Byzantium	1c	8c		
Islam	9c	7c	19c	15c
Europe	12-13ce	1-5c	14c	15c

towards the bazaar

[Page & Brin]"dreamed of making the
incredible breadth of information that
librarians so lovingly organize searchable
online."

bazaars

open source

Yochai Benkler, *The Wealth of Networks: How Social Production Transforms Markets and Freedom*, 2003

"laws of quality"

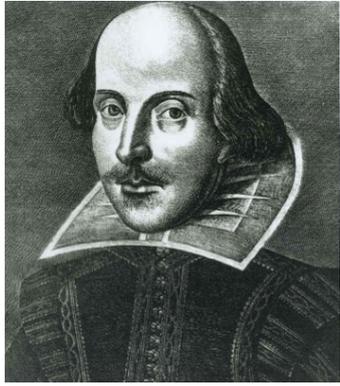
Linus's Law - Raymond

Graham's Law

"The method of ensuring quality" in peer production is "Darwinian ... People just produce whatever they want; the good stuff spreads, and the bad gets ignored" (Graham, 2005)

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In courts of law men literally care nothing about truth,
but only about conviction."



--Plato, *Phaedrus*

bizarre?

Well, old man, I will tell you news of your son: give me your blessing: truth will come to light; murder cannot be hid long; a man's son may, but at the length **truth will out**.

--Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*

And though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play on the earth, so **Truth be in the field**, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falsehood grapple; **who ever knew Truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?**

--Milton, *Areopagitica*

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organizational issues

gracernote

Name	Artist	Album
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	0. Ouverture	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.01 Introduzione: Notte...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.04 Recitativo Accompa...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.06 Recitativo: Orsu, Sp...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.07 Aria: Ah! Chi Mi Dic...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.09 Aria: Madamina, Il ...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Giovanni	1.10 Coro: Gioviette Ch...	Mozart - Don Giovanni ...
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nal issues

gracernote

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nal issues

Name	Artist	Album
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mi - Par Ch'oggi Il Demo...	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non Ti Fidar, O Misera	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Ottavio, Son Morta !	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Or Sai Chi L'onore	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dalla Sua Pace	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Io Deggio Ad Ogni Patto	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fin Ch'han Dal Vino	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masetto, Senti Un Po' !	Krips, Siepi, Della Cas...	Don Giovanni (2/3)

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Name	Artist	Album
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Di Molte Faci Il Lume (...)	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sola, Sola, In Buio Loco...	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ah, Pieti signori Miei (L...	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Il Mio Tesoro Intanto (...)	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Quali Eccessi, O Nu...	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ah, Ah, Ah, Ah, Questa...	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> O Statua Gentilissima (...)	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calmatevi, Idol Mio (D...	Wolfgang Amadeus Moz...	Mozart: Don Giovanni ...

going "open"

 **On Newsstands Now**
Issue 11.02 | February 2003

VIEW

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Any Text. Anytime. Anywhere. (Any Volunteers?)

The mechanics of a universal library are simple. The tricky part: harnessing the free labor.

By J. Bradford DeLong

It's a bad day in the stacks.

I go three for seven: three books found, one that should be there but isn't, one recorded lost, and one checked out that will have to be recalled. The seventh is the one I really want: QB54.C661. There's no copy in UC Berkeley's main Doe Library stacks - it's shelved in the Math Library. The Math copy is not where it's supposed to be, but the catalog claims there are two copies on the shelves in Moffitt. Then time's up. It will be 64 hours before I get another crack at tracking down Appendix D of Carl Sagan, ed., *Communication With Extraterrestrial Intelligence*.

And that's after two hours doing very low grade work: looking up call numbers, wandering down corridors, waiting for the crowds to clear out between the compact movable stacks so I can get at the shelves without crushing grad students in the next aisle. Knowledge revolution, indeed.

So why can't I just call up the text on my computer screen? Where is my universal online library?

In 1971, Michael Hart asked himself the same question, and started Project Gutenberg with the goal of making every single text ever written freely accessible. From a worldwide cost-benefit standpoint, Project Gutenberg is a no-brainer. Sure, it'll cost \$750 million in volunteer time (if the typists are in the United States - just \$50 million if they're in India), but some 1 million book titles could be called up anytime anywhere from anything with an Internet connection. We're talking 10 cents per person, or less, to create the universal

VIEW

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really make us safer?](#)

[Memory Overload](#)

[Hot Seat](#)

[Dumb Mobs](#)

[Any Text. Anytime.
Anywhere. \(Any
Volunteers?\)](#)

A MICHAEL WINTERKOTZ FILM
TRISTRAM SHANDY
A COCK OF BULL STORY

HELMUT
BONFANTEK OF
HELVETIA



"don't break the build" --FreeBSD

containers of information

gutenberg

THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF TRISTRAM SHANDY, GENTLEMAN.

By Laurence Sterne

THE LIFE AND OPINIONS OF TRISTRAM SHANDY, GENT.—VOLUME THE FIRST

(two lines in Greek)

Chapter 1.I.	Chapter 1.XIV.	Chapter 1.XXVII.	Chapter 1.XL.
Chapter 1.II.	Chapter 1.XV.	Chapter 1.XXVIII.	Chapter 1.XLI.
Chapter 1.III.	Chapter 1.XVI.	Chapter 1.XXIX.	Chapter 1.XLII.
Chapter 1.IV.	Chapter 1.XVII.	Chapter 1.XXX.	Chapter 1.XLIII.
Chapter	Chapter	Chapter	

What's the goal of this project?

The Library Project's aim is simple: make it easier for people to find relevant books

[<http://books.google.com/googlebooks/library.html>]

the mountain view

google books

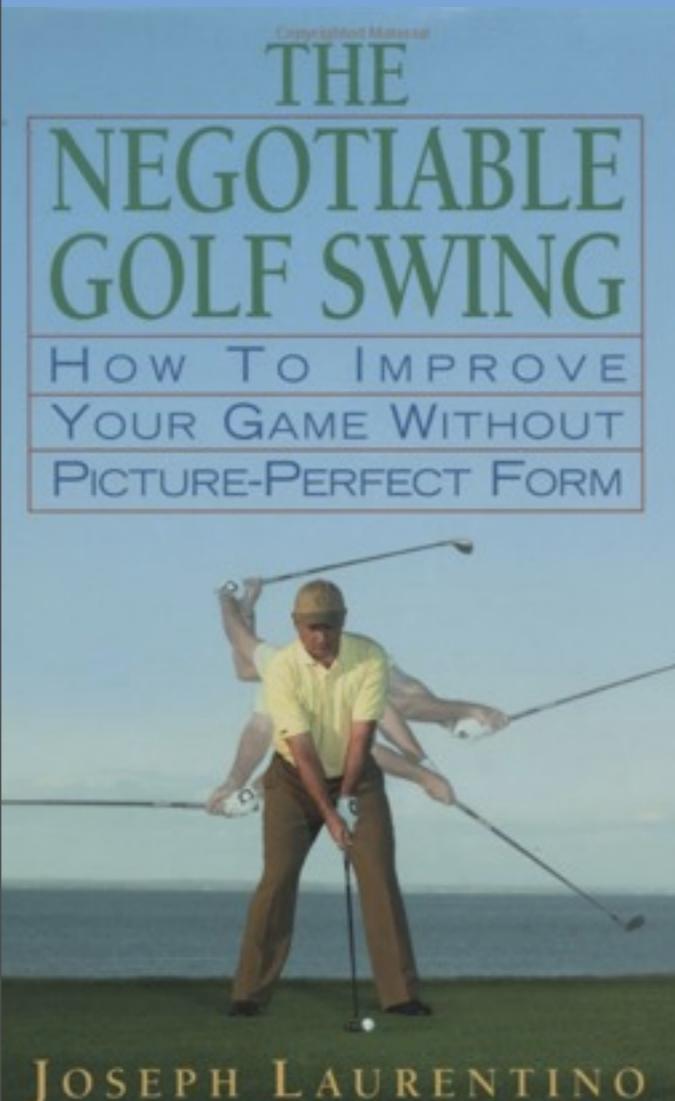
"we'll scan them all"

"we went to the libraries because that's where the information is"

"artificial impediments"

"what's metadata; we've got algorithms"

"we read books too"



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August 31, 2009

Google's Book Search: A Disaster for Scholars

By Geoffrey Nunberg

Whether the Google books settlement passes muster with the U.S. District Court and the Justice Department, Google's book search is clearly on track to becoming the world's largest digital library. No less important, it is also almost certain to be the last one. Google's five-year head start and its relationships with libraries and publishers give it an effective monopoly: No competitor will be able to come

after it on the same scale. Nor is technology going to lower the cost of entry. Scanning will always

be an expensive collection may p
assume that the
that are sitting c
interim.

Madame Bovary By Henry James



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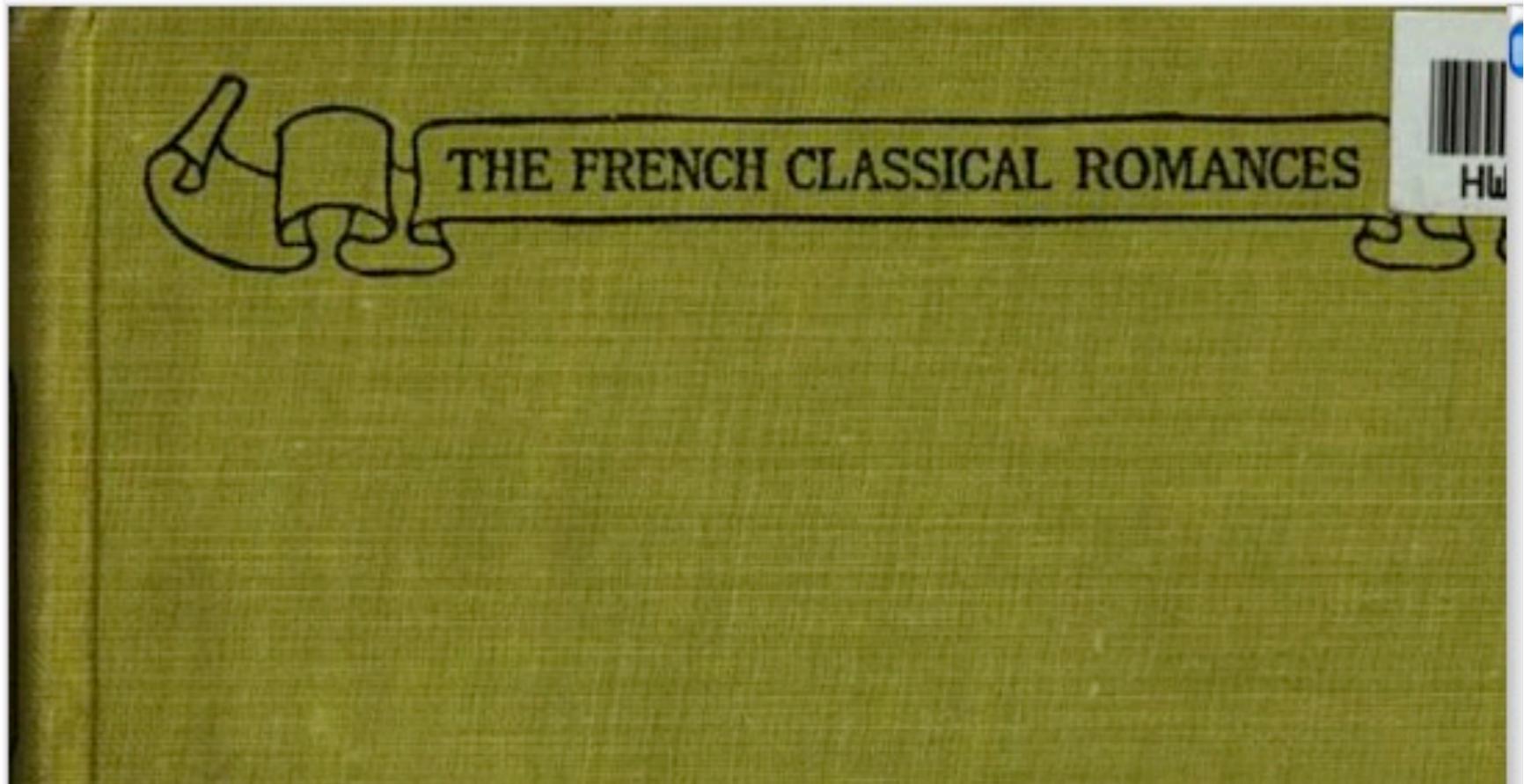
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trainwreck

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by Sir Thomas Browne, Bruce Rogers - [Gardening](#) - 1907 - 54 pages

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trainwreck

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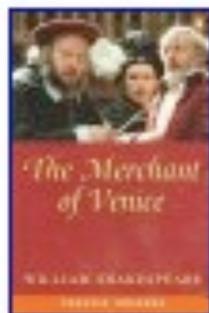


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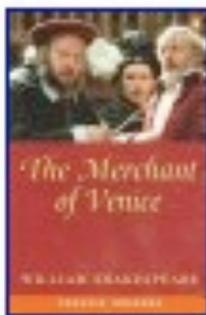
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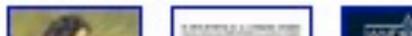


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The autograph edition of the novels and stories of Willa Cather

by Bruce Rogers, Houghton Mifflin Company - [Dummies \(Bookselling\)](#) - 1937 - 13 pages

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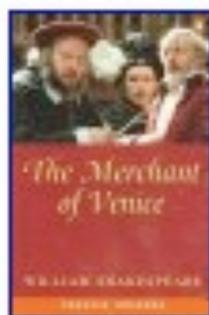
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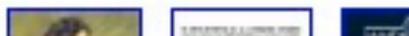
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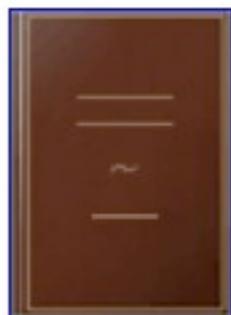
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trainwreck

before my time



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... no really good.7" Além disso, como ressaltou o linguista **Geoffrey Nunberg**,

embora de para imaginar o diálogo How brilliant was it? Very INão



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Page 35

Here there would be discussion among both the **literate** and the **illiterate** about the import of inscribed or posted texts; here there were scribes plying their trade for the benefit of those who could not write properly for themselves. Even in private ...

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Page 220

For **illiterate** clergy in early fifth-century Africa, who were admittedly disapproved of, see below. 1 68. At some date which, ... However, in her search for **illiterate** clergy Wipszycka found only two in fourth-century documents (both deacons) (SB ...

pan-dering?

Pan

Knut Hamsun

And the huntsman is myself, and she will give me a glance of her eyes that I may understand. And when she comes, my heart knows all, and no longer beats like a heart, but rings as a bell. I lay my hand on her.

“Tie my shoe-string,” she says, with flushed cheeks. . . .”

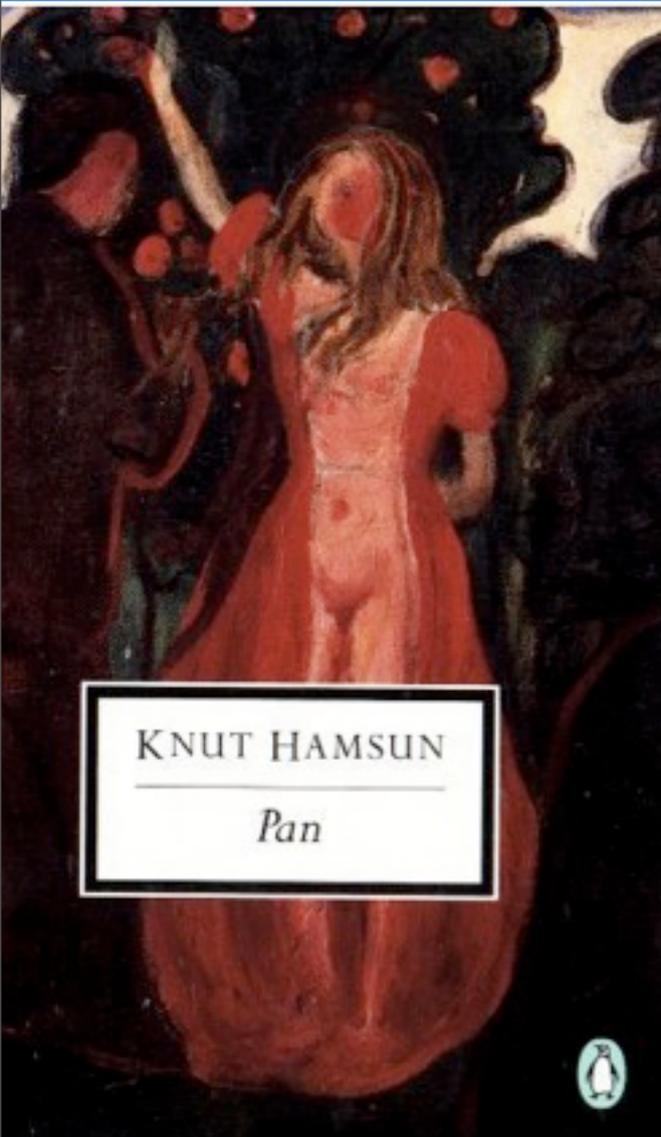
The sun dips down into the sea and rises again, red and refreshed, as if it had been to drink. And the air is full of whisperings.

pan-dering?

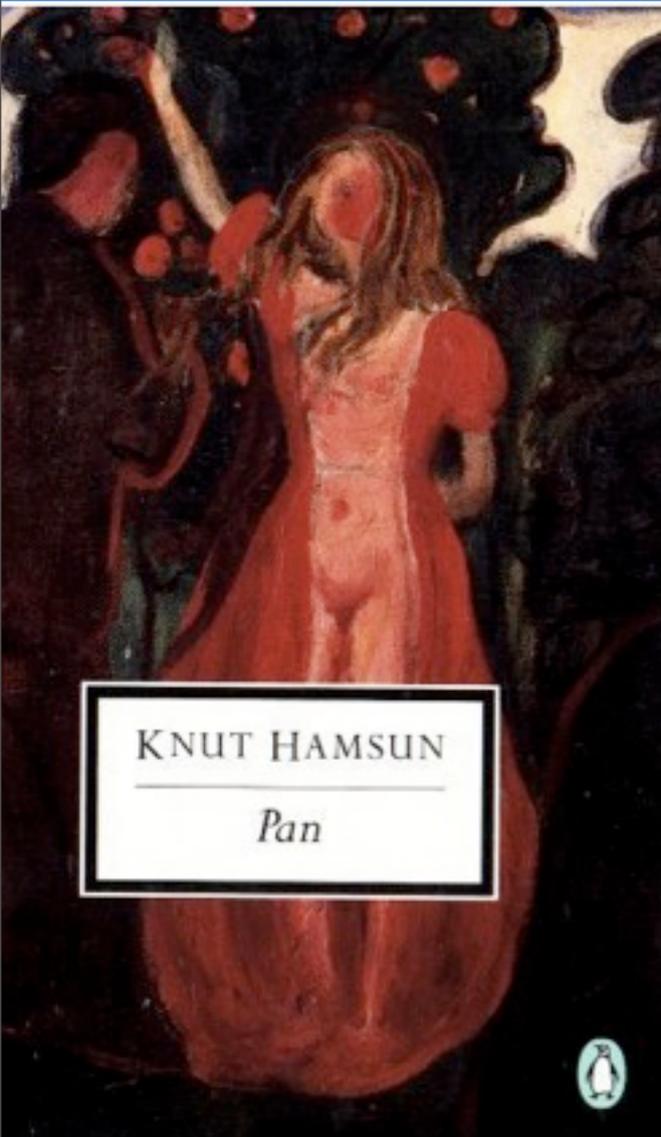
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“Tie my shoe-string,” she says, with flushed cheeks. . . .”

The sun dips down into the sea and rises again, red and refreshed, as if it had been to drink. And the air is full of whisperings.



pan-dering?



KNUT HAMSUN

Pan

The hunter, that's me, and she will give me a sign with her eyes to make me understand. And when she comes my heart understands all, and it no longer beats, it peals. And she is naked under her dress⁷ from head to foot, and I lay my hand upon her.

Tie my shoelace! she says with flaming cheeks. And a little later she whispers directly against my mouth, against my lips, Oh, you're not tying my shoelace, sweetheart, you're not tying . . . not tying my . . .

But the sun dips its disk into the sea and then rises again, red, renewed, as if it has been down to drink. And the air is full of whisperings.

An hour later she says against my mouth, Now I must leave you.

forward to the past

the majority of errors in Tristram Shandy
"originate in some popular nineteenth-century
edition"

--R.C. Bald

Pan:

Translated from the Norwegian of Knut Hamsun
by W. W. Worster

--New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1927

BOOKS OF THE TIMES

A Master of Verse Spreads Bad Cheer

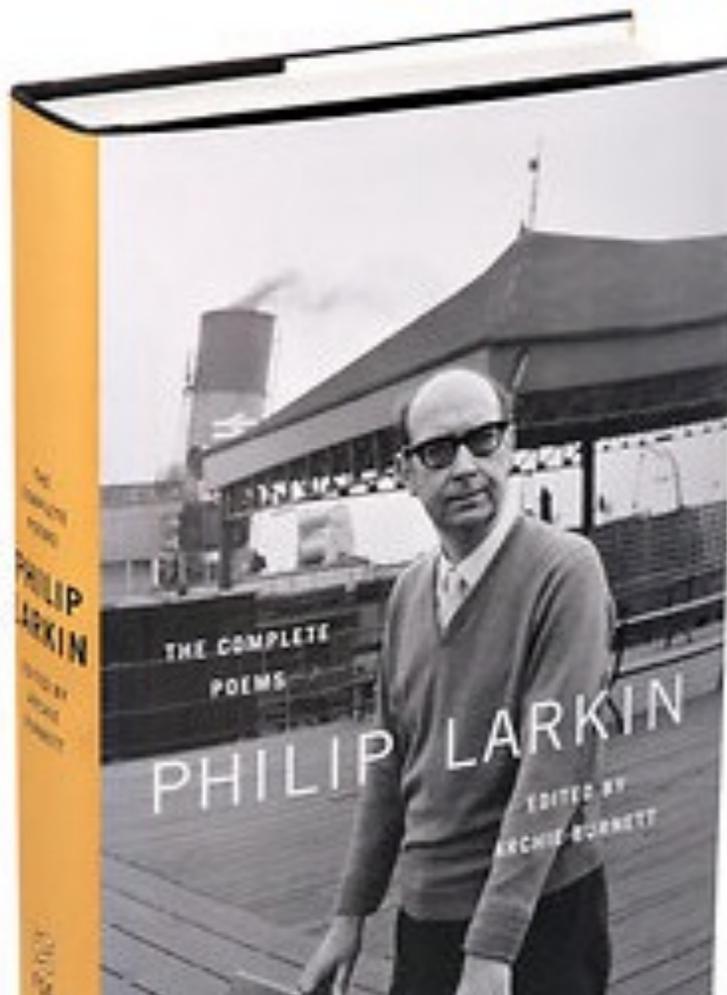
Philip Larkin's Complete Poems, Edited by Archie Burnett

By MICHIKO KAKUTANI

Published: April 9, 2012

bowdler lives on

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Of course, Larkin (1922-85) was also a poetic genius. Though he will never be as popular in the United States as he is in Britain (where he's still regarded as a kind of poet laureate), his finest poems, like "Aubade" — a harrowing meditation on death and the human condition — deserve the broadest possible audience here. The musicality of his verse, his ability to address the most metaphysical of subjects in the most vernacular of tones, his acerbic sense of the absurd — all serve to make him one of the most bracing and unforgettable voices in postwar poetry.

Many American readers know Larkin chiefly from his more darkly funny lines: "Sexual intercourse began/In nineteen sixty-three/(Which was rather late for me) —/Between the end of the 'Chatterley' ban/And the Beatles' first LP" (from "Annus Mirabilis"). Or: They mess you up, "your mum and dad./They may not mean to, but they do./ They fill you with the faults they had/And add some extra, just for you" (from "This Be The Verse").

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overview

Bush's information
backward projection
association
disorganization
open and closed



revolution again

French Revolution's new science

"plea for liberty in science and equity for the unrecognized genius" --Gachet

"popular medicine infinitely preferable to, and more certain than, all the often erroneous practices of our physicians"

Nouveau Plan ... pour la Médecine en France,
1790

Thomsonian revolution

"medicine, like every useful science should be thrown open to the observation and study of all ... We should at once explode the whole machinery of mystification and concealment--wigs, gold canes, and the gibberish of prescriptions--which serve but as a cloak to ignorance and legalized murder!"

--New York Evening Star 1833

going closed

Carolina Journal News Reports

State Threatens to Shut Down Nutrition Blogger

Nutrition board says he needs a license to advocate dietary approaches



By [Sara Burrows](#)

Apr. 23rd, 2012



CHARLOTTE — The North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition is threatening to send a blogger to jail for recounting publicly his battle against diabetes and encouraging others to follow his lifestyle.

Chapter 90, Article 25 of the North Carolina General Statutes makes it a misdemeanor to “practice dietetics or nutrition” without a license. According to the law, “practicing” nutrition includes “assessing the nutritional needs of individuals and groups” and “providing nutrition counseling.”

Steve Cooksey has learned that the definition, at least in the eyes of the state board, is expansive.

When he was hospitalized with diabetes in February 2009, he decided to avoid the fate of his grandmother, who eventually died of the disease. He embraced the low-carb, high-protein Paleo diet, also known as the “caveman” or “hunter-gatherer” diet. The diet, he said, made him drug- and insulin-free within 30 days. By May of that year, he had lost 45 pounds and decided to start a blog about his success.



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-- W.T.S. Daniel, *History and Origin of Law Reports*, 1884

open resources?





recurring theme

revolutionary revolution?

going round in circles?

Abbé Raynal, *Révolution d'Amérique*, 1781

or straight ahead

Tom Paine, *Letter to the Abbé Raynal, on the
Affairs of North America*, 1782