

authors, authority, & reputation & the world of print



housekeeping

blog

Paul:

plagiarism

the birth of the author

a new search for quality

Geoff:

genre



the story so far

infoenthusiams

information wants to be free

quantity vs quality

rotten information

technology, time and place
boundaries and gatekeeping

economics & quality

institutions

plagiarism

--a new concern?

"There is an underlying assumption within both readings that technology, and specifically the web, poses significant threats to the integrity of student research and coursework."

—Sarai

a novel concern

Tobias Wolf
Tom Wolfe
Peter Ackroyd
Peter Carey
Thomas Mallon

plagiarism



not just students

Joseph Biden

Doris Kerns Goodwin

Stephen Ambrose

Alan Dershowitz

Michael Bellesiles

plagiarism?



not all new

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 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 Verie*, 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 beg 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

authority in the digital age

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>



or not?

"Blog technology has lowered the social and economic barriers for publishing and has increased access to everyone (as long as you have access to the internet). You don't always know who the "real" author of the blog is, and the technology makes it harder to focus on who is actually doing the writing. Of course, this doesn't necessarily mean that the "author is dead", but perhaps the concept of the author been transformed somehow?"

Helen

romanticizing the author?

"[The Net] resembles the 19th-century American West ... Until the West was fully settled and "civilized" in this century, order was established according to an unwritten Code of the West, which had the fluidity of common law rather than the rigidity of statutes. ... In fact, until the late 18th century this model was applied to much of what is now copyrighted."

John Perry Barlow

what is this author ?

open source

the importance of names

the orbitem survey

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

what is this author ?

the author's due

Tasini vs New York Times

the 250-author paper

“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

death of the author

the reader wants to be free

"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, to furnish it with a final signified, to close the writing."

Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author"

"I think Foucault is suggesting we take a much more complex and nuanced view of a text than traditional literary criticism."

Sarai

sic transit ...

"The image of literature to be found in ordinary culture is tyrannically centred on the author"

Roland Barthes

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

Henry Fielding, *Tom Jones*

hypertext & the author

"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*

divine right & the author

"The Notion of the author does for information, for the knowledge-value revolution, what the Divine Right of Kings did for the monarchy, what classical economists' notion of the justice of "natural" unregulated markets did for the economic relations of the industrial revolution.
James Boyle, *Shamans, Software, & Spleen*

divine right & the author



"It's hard even to imagine an
alternative system."

Boyle

quality, property, appropriation

licenses, patents, ownership

"there is no Poison in the Composition"

the first blogger:

"The unrestrained *Press* gives a kind of *Imprimatur* to every thing that comes from it ... a publick *Note of Distinction*."

Defoe, *Restraint upon the Press*

quality, property, appropriation

author as father

A Book is the Author's Property, 'tis the
Child of his Inventions, 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.

Daniel Defoe, *Review*

property & quality

"the founding myth ... that textual integrity and regulated intellectual property are somehow mutually entailed."

Joseph Loewenstein, *The Author's Due*

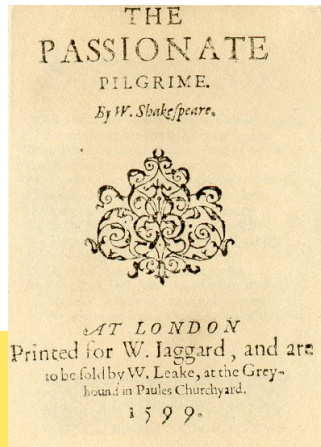
branding by author

"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*

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

Foucault



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'."

whose book?

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.

who 'brands'?

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 ...



interrogating the author

structuralism, text, & the reader

"the text is a tissue of quotations"

"The removal of the author ... utterly transforms the modern text"

"Classic criticism has never paid any attention to the reader; for it, the writer is the only person in literature. ...: the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the Author"



Foucault

the author function

"The concept of an 'author function' as defined in the essay is what seemed its most relevant part in the context of the classes we have had so far."

Janaki

unintended consequences

145: 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.

unintended consequences

144: It is not enough to declare that we should do without the writer (the author) and study the work in itself.

...

145: This usage of the notion of writing runs the risk of maintaining the author's privilege under the protection of writing's a priori status.

unintended consequences

145: "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."

unintended consequences

It would be pure romanticism, however, to imagine a culture in which the fictive would operate in an absolutely free state, in which fiction would be put at the disposal of everyone and would develop without passing through something like **a necessary or constraining figure.**

consequences

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 . . .**

the author-function

[1] First of all, discourses are objects of appropriation ... penal appropriation. Texts ... began to have authors ... to the extent that authors became subject to punishment

"somebody to answer ... the last seller ... unless the Name of the Author, Printer, or Bookseller be affix'd to the Book"

the author-function

[2] The author function does not affect
all discourses in a universal and a
constant way.

the author-function

[3] It does not develop spontaneously as the attribution of a discourse to an individual ... complex operation which constructs a certain rational being that we call "author. ... a projection, in more or less psychologizing terms, of the operations that we force texts to undergo.

one or several authors?

St Jerome

- (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



reliable?

"foul quartos"

Defoe's bibliography

guarantors of quality?

English penal appropriation

1546 printer's name

1557 stationers' charter

1559 stationers' patent
for bible, music, law

1694/5 loss of privileges

1694/5-1709/10 no control

"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

finally, copyright

property disputes: printer v bookseller

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

Joseph Loewenstein

1709/10 Statute of Anne

14 & 28 years

the text

1741, Pope v. Curl

"**Copy** ... the actual manuscript that the compositor followed ...

OR text to which the Stationer could claim to possess some rightA copy in the second sense could then be represented as properly comprising all that the work in question should be, as well as all that a particular manuscript copy was."

Google print & the perfect book?



sumptuary laws

1774 Donaldson v Becket

booksellers lose
"common law" right to copy.

'systems of constraint'?

quality editions

English Poets
encyclopedias
dictionaries
Shakespeare

shifts in branding?

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*

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.



1695 again?

contending systems?

BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION

Last Updated: Friday, 12 August, 2005, 15:21 GMT 16:21 UK

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Google pauses online books plan

Google has put the brakes on its programme to digitise the books in several major university libraries.

In its blog, the search giant said it would temporarily stop scanning copyrighted texts until November to allay concerns about the plan.

The company's library project aims to put millions of volumes online and accessible everywhere via the web.

Google's plan has come under fire from



The New York Public Libr

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 Google says its plan will raise



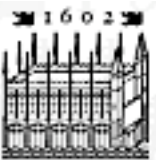
quality control?

"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



Bodleian Library
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

"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



The New York Public Library

author & authority



systems of constraint

diverse

hard to see

contested control

printer

bookseller

author

publisher

last words

as our society changes

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?