Electronic Literature

ENGL 146EL - Winter 2006, Rita Raley

Mon, 1/9

Introduction: Electronic Literature

Demos:
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- Peter Howard, "Xylo"
- Stephanie Strickland, "The Ballad of Sand and Harry Soot"
- Deena Larsen, *Disappearing Rain*
- Chris Green, "Walking Together What Remains"
- Tal Halpern, *Le Nouveau Western*
- Dan Waber, *Strings*
- Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries

Wed, 1/11

Early computer-mediated fiction

Readings Due: Judy Malloy, *l0ve 0ne*

Recommended Readings: Judy Malloy, Works

Mon, 1/16

No class: university holiday

Wed, 1/18

Storyspace and Eastgate

Readings Due:
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- Katherine Hayles, *Writing Machines* (pp. 36-37)
- Espen Aarseth, *Cybertext* (pp. 90-92)

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To print the Borges stories, set margins to about .25" and change orientation from "portrait" to "landscape."

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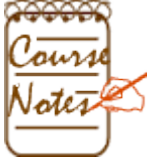

Wed, 1/25   ## Cybertext

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- Tristan Tzara, "Dadaist Poem" (1920); Brion Gysin, Cut-Ups Self-Explained; The Cut-up Technique (Burroughs)
- Browse Oulipo (Ouvroir de Littérature Informatique Potentiel)
- Jim Andrews, Seattle Drift

Recommended Readings: Stéphane Susana, "A Roundup of Constrained Writing on the Web" | Permutations
- Further examples from Aarseth: Apollinaire, Calligrammes; Eliza; Adventure; I Ching | IC (for DOS) | Cent milles milliards de poèmes (comparison between print and electronic forms)

Mon, 1/30   ## Automated poetics & text generators

Readings Due:
- Espen Aarseth, "The Cyborg Author," *Cybertext*
- Text generators: Pedro Barbosa and Abílio Cavalheiro, Syntext | Mario Hergueta, "Stop Making Sense"; The Assoziations Blaster (intro and FAQ); Two Textual Instruments: *News Reader*

Recommended Readings: RACTER FAQ | Racter (ubuweb) | Computer-generated writing | Robert Kendall, Smoothcircuit | Nick Montfort, "The Coding and Execution of the Author" | Jim Carpenter, Electronic Text Composition (Slought Foundation)

Wed, 2/1 Interactive fiction & text adventure games

Readings Due:
- Andrew Plotkin, *Shade* (download free or play Java version online)
- Espen Aarseth, "Intrigue and Discourse in the Adventure Game," *Cybertext*
- Mike Tolar, Clink (description)

Recommended Readings: Adventure game (wikipedia) | Brass Lantern | Natalie Bookchin, The Intruder | Being Andrew Plotkin | Index of IF by Andrew Plotkin | Zork I: The Great Underground Empire | Baf's Guide to IF | Interview with Andrew Plotkin | Gaming Links: *Game Studies*; Open Directory: InteractiveFiction | Jeremy Douglass (UCSB), "Lecture: Interactive Fiction | Nick Montfot, "Interactive Fiction" | Infocom teenage zombie ad

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Mon, 2/6 Maps & navigational structures

Readings Due:
- Matthew Miller, "Trip"
- Lisa Bloomfield, "Zone of Fog"

Recommended Readings: Raine Koskimaa, "Visual Structuring of Hypertext Narratives"

Wed, 2/8 Narrative

Readings Due:
- Olia Lialina, "My Boyfriend Came Back From the War"
- Caitlin Fisher, "These Waves of Girls"

Recommended Readings: Remediations of "Boyfriend" (multiple

artists)

Mon, 2/13 — Visual Poetry (vispo)

Readings Due:
- Aram Saroyan poems, especially 15-30
- Emmett Williams, "Like Attracts Like"; "meditation no.1"; "typewriter"
- e.e. cummings, "r-p-o-p-h-e-s-s-a-g-r" [and page proof]
- Browse UbuWeb, especially Guillaume Apollinaire
- bp Nichol, "Attempted Diagnoses," "untitled," and "eyes"
- Ana Maria Uribe, Anipoema / Anipoem
- Brian Kim Stephans, "The Dreamlife of Letters"

Recommended Readings: Aram Saroyan, "Flower Power" | Bob Grumman, "MNMLST POETRY: Unacclaimed but Flourishing" | Brazilian Digital Poetry | Vispo ~ Langu(im)age: experimental visual poetry (Jim Andrews) | Neil Hennessey, "Puddle" | Eugen Gomringer, "Silencio" | Aram Saroyan, *Pages* (Random House, 1969) | links for class discussion

Wed, 2/15 — Listening at the screen

Readings Due:
- Sound poetry at UbuWeb, especially Hugo Ball, "Karawane"; Tristan Tzara, "L'amiral Cherche"; Kurt Schwitters (Ursonate score); Jaap Blonk, "der minister" and "galsslass"
- Komninos Zervos, "Sound Poem"
- Thom Swiss and Skye Giordano, *Genius*
- Young Hae-Chang Heavy Industries, especially "Dakota," "Beckett's Bounce," "Lotus Blossom," and "Rain on the Sea"

Recommended Readings: Intercultural medium literature digital: Interview with YHC HI (Hyun-Joo Yoo) | Hearing Art in the 21st Century" (MASS MoCA); Steven Poole on sound art (Guardian)

Critical Essays on sound poetry: Dick Higgins, "A Taxonomy of Sound Poetry"; Kevin Concannon, "Cut and Paste: Collage and the Art of Sound"; Steve McCaffery, "Sound Poetry - A Survey"

Mon, 2/20 — No class: university holiday

Wed, 2/22

Flash, Shockwave, and Java poetics: loops, kineticism, durational structures

Readings Due:
- Dan Waber, *Strings*
- Barry Smylie and Alan Sondheim, "Sailing"
- Claire Dinsmore, "The Dazzle as Question"
- Komninos Zervos, Invention (CyberPoetry)
- Erwin Redl, "Truth is a Moving Target"
- geniwate, exercises in shockwave generative art

Recommended Readings: Peter Howard, "Flash Poetry" | Poems That Go | Revisit Young Hae-Chang Heavy Industries; also "The Art of Sleep" (Tate online)

Mon, 2/27

3D texts

Readings Due:
- Noah Wardrip-Fruin et al, *Screen* (watch Quicktime videos)
- John Cayley, "Lens"
- David Knoebel, *Click Poetry: Words in Space*
- Jason Nelson, "cube"
- Aya Karpinska and Daniel C. Howe, *open.ended*

Recommended Readings: Jeffrey Shaw, *The Legible City* (with QT video) | Dan Waber and Jason Pimble, *I, You, We* | Camille Utterback & Romy Achituv, *Text Rain* | Eduardo Kac, Holopoetry | Ben Fry, *valence* | Magic Book | Ted Warnell, "Code Poetry" | Jason Nelson, The Poetry Cube

Wed, 3/1

Technotexts

Readings Due:
- Giselle Beiguelman, the book after the book / o livro depois do livro
- N. Katherine Hayles, "Media and Materiality" and "Material Metaphors, Technotexts, and Media-Specific Analysis," *Writing Machines*

Recommended Readings: Reading Eye Dog | WebTake on *Writing Machines* (Erik Loyer) | Stephanie Strickland, *V: Vniverse* | Giselle Beiguelman (review by Shashi Rao Thandra)

Mon, 3/6 — Code, Code Poetry, and Net.wurked Language

Readings Due:
- Mez, _the data][h!][bleeding texts_ and _The Art of M[ez]ang.elle.ing
- Florian Cramer, "Program Code Poetry" and "and" (Perl poem)

Recommended Readings: Ted Warnell interview on the poetics of programming (trAce) | "London.pl" (transcribes Blake's "London" into Perl); Perl poetry | "The Pleasures of the Text" (*NY Times Book Review*, January 2006) | Code aesthetics: experimental poetry (digitalcraft.org) | Leet (wikipedia) | _[net]blog to log][ah!rhythm][_ (Mez blog)

Wed, 3/8 — Interference

Readings Due:
- Talan Memmott, *Lexia to Perplexia* (tip: don't use Safari)
- N. Katherine Hayles, "Electronic Literature as Technotext," *Writing Machines*

Recommended Readings: Mapping the Acephale | active/onBlur: an interview with Talan Memmott (Mark Amerika)

Mon, 3/13 — Translations

Readings Due:
- John Cayley, *Translation* (first download and install fixed-width font and sounds in archive from here)
- Ted Warnell, "Lascaux.Symbol.ic" and "VIRU2"
- Genco Gulan, "interactive poem / etkilesimli siir" [description] [text]

Recommended Readings: Visual explanation of programming languages (Webopedia) | YHCHI, "Nippon" | Harold Cohen, "The Further Exploits of Aaron, Painter" | Virtual Lascaux (c. 15,000 bce)

Wed, 3/15 — The poetics of computational text

Readings Due:
- John Cayley, with Giles Perring, *Overboard* (follow instructions to

install sound fonts)

Recommended Readings: Cayley, "Overboard: An Example of Ambient Time-Based Poetics in digital art"

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