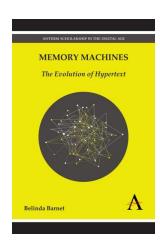## Memory Machines
The Evolution of Hypertext
Belinda Barnet

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Description

An exploration of the history of hypertext, an influential concept that forms the underlying structure of the World Wide Web and innumerable software applications.

'Belinda Barnet has given the world a fine-grain, blow-by-blow report of how hypertext happened, how we blundered to the World Wide Web, and what other things electronic literature might still become.' —*Ted Nelson, hypertext pioneer*

'This is a fine and important book, the first to capture the rich history of ideas and people that led to the World Wide Web. Memory Machines carefully examines what the key figures were trying to do and judiciously explores what they accomplished and how the systems we now use daily sometimes exceed their dreams and sometimes fall embarrassingly short of their early achievements.' —*Mark Bernstein, Chief Scientist, Eastgate Systems*

'Walter Benjamin wrote that "It is not that what is past casts its light on what is present, or what is present its light on what is past; rather...what has been comes together in a flash with the now to form a constellation. "Memory Machines" is, even for one among its participants, such a constellation of the now.' —*Michael Joyce, Professor of English at Vassar College, New York*

This book explores the history of hypertext, an influential concept that forms the underlying structure of the World Wide Web and innumerable software applications. Barnet tells both the human and the technological story by weaving together contemporary literature and her exclusive interviews with those at the forefront of hypertext innovation, tracing its evolutionary roots back to the analogue machine imagined by Vannevar Bush in 1945.

Readership: This book will appeal to academics in media and communications, cultural studies, computing science, and library and information science.

Contents

Foreword by Stuart Moulthrop; Chapter 1: Preface; Chapter 2: Technical Evolution; Chapter 3: Memex as an Image of Potentiality; Chapter 4: Augmenting the Intellect: NLS; Chapter 5: The Magical Place of Literary Memory: Xanadu; Chapter 6: Seeing and Making Connections: HES and FRESS; Chapter 7: Machine Enhanced (Re)minding: Development of Storyspace; Bibliography

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About the Author

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