Kristin Veel
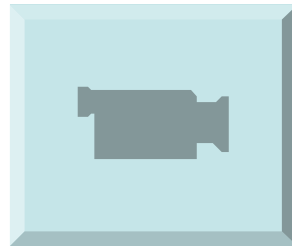
Once upon a time there was a database…

Database and narrative from a cognitive point of view

David Clark. A is for Apple, 2002. www.aisforapple.net

Narratives and Databases

'Story is a basic principle of mind. Most of our experience, our knowledge, and our thinking is organized as stories'

Mark Turner. The Literary Mind. The Origins of Thought and Language. Oxford University Press, 1996. p. i.

'[D]atabase aesthetics itself has become an important cultural narrative of our time, constituting a shift towards a relational, networked approach to gathering and creating knowledge about cultural specifics'

Christiane Paul. "The Database as System and Cultural Form: Anatomies of Cultural Narratives." Database Aesthetics. Ed. Victoria Vesna: Minnesota Press, Forthcoming.

'a new way to structure our experience of ourselves and of the world'

Lev Manovich. The Language of New Media. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: The MIT Press, 2001. p. 219.

'As a cultural form, the database represents the world as a list of items, and it refuses to order this list. In contrast, a narrative creates a cause-and-effect trajectory of seemingly unordered items (events). Therefore, database and narrative are natural enemies. Competing for the same territory of human culture, each claims an exclusive right to make meaning out of the world.'

Lev Manovich. The Language of New Media. Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: The MIT Press, 2001. p. 225.
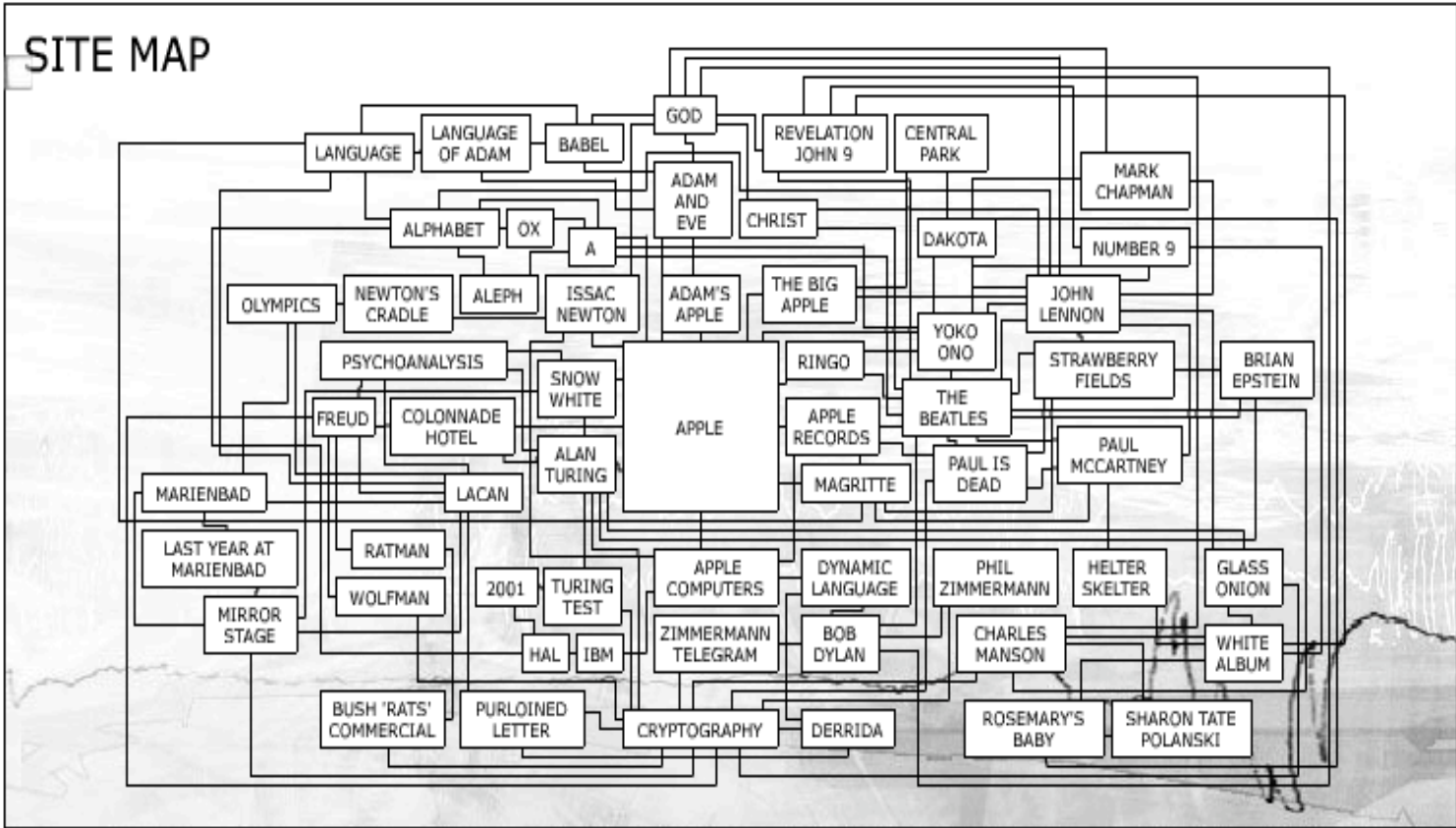
Autopoiesis

A is for Agency and Autopoiesis

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David Clark. A is for Apple, 2002. www.aisforapple.net

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David Clark. <u>A is for Apple</u>, 2002. <u>www.aisforapple.net</u>

Let's play hide and seek /

I'll play God and you'll play man /

Now I'll create the meaning of your existence, /

just beyond the reach of your perception /

I'll hide it in my creation.

Agency

'[I]n the absence of a subject and its actions, the sequentiality of historical time becomes a space of simultaneity that does not allow for any relations of cause and effect'

Gumbrecht, Hans Ulrich. In 1926. Living at the Edge of Time. Cambridge, Massachusetts; ondon, England: Harvard University Press, 1997. p. 421.

A is for Agency and Autopoiesis

'For me, the real challenge of data art is <u>not</u> about how to map some abstract and impersonal data into something meaningful and beautiful – economists, graphic designers, and scientists are already doing this quite well. The more interesting and at the end maybe more important challenge is how to represent the personal subjective experience of a person living in a data society. If daily interaction with volumes of data and numerous messages is part of our new "data-subjectivity", how can we represent this experience in new ways?'

Manovich, Lev. "Datavisualisation as New Abstraction and Anti-Sublime". 2002. <www.manovich.net/>.

Perception and Representation

'The forms of art […] are not empty forms. They perform a definite task in the construction and organization of human experience. To live in the realm of forms does not signify an evasion of the issues of life; it represents, on the contrary, the realization of one of the highest energies of life itself. We cannot speak of art as 'extra-human' or 'superhuman' without overlooking one of its fundamental features, its constructive power in the framing of our human universe.'

Cassirer, Ernst. An Essay on Man. An Introduction to a Philosophy of Human Culture. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1944.

Questions or comments:

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