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Functional Specification
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The Memex is a mechanized storage device, designed to expand the limitations of human memory, and to provide an instantly and easily accessible library of all of an individual's records. It physically presents in the form of a desk, a piece around which one can center one's daily work. The desk appears to be a typical piece of furniture, with the addition of a set of translucent screens, a series of buttons and levers, and a keyboard on the face, with which the user accesses the mechanized library stored within.

The Memex allows the user to store, primarily using advanced microfilm, a near infinite number of documents, thereafter available for instant access via the screens atop the face of the desk. Although the interior space of the desk is primarily devoted to the mechanism, and only a small area is intended for storage, the size of the updated microfilm would allow for thousands of material deposits daily, ongoing for hundreds of years. The majority of the documents stored in the desk would be purchased, ready for insertion, already configured so as to operate within the Memex system. The Memex also allows for manual entry, using a dry photography system to capture longhand notes, written documents, photographs and more. Placed on a transparent platform on top of the desk, the user can place their materials, and engage one of the situated levers, creating an immediate impression of the document, to be stored with all the others.

Using the keyboard to input codes, the user can access the documents stored in the library, projected onto one of the screens. The user can then navigate through the documents using the buttons and levers on the desk top to turn pages individually or in larger increments, and to jump back to the index. Within this system, the user will also be able to add commentary to the stored documents, using either the keyboard, or a stylus, to create longhand notes directly linked to the document being accessed.

In addition, the Memex would allow for the creation of indices by association, via the manual linking of related documents, establishing a trail that can be revisited. Rather than searching the library every time for each individual book needed, the Memex will facilitate the creation of a compendium of the user's own making.