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### Critical Reflection One

#### Exprima Talks: Reading Hypertext with Mark Bernstein

Corey Pressman contextualizes our methods of utilizing digital media, specifically its content and our way of digesting digital literature. Using a series of prompts, Pressman interviews Mark Bernstein on the digitization of literature, he denotes that website links are in some form, just as important as commas are in readings. "The link is the most important new form of punctuation since the comma" (Bernstein). Bernstein explains that hypertext link is useful in linking structure and sources in other texts and reformats our current ways of thinking.

Pressman then showcases an interactive storytelling website, Twinery, which is comparable to the "Create your own adventure" storybooks. Twinery utilizes a series of hypertext links to demonstrate its stories, each text box is a hypertext link and by continuing the story, the user navigates through each hypertext.

Guard Fields are an important factor when creating hypertext stories, as they factor in the readers current and previous course when navigating these stories. "If the reader hasn't seen A, go there. If not, has the reader seen B? If the reader hasn't seen B, go to B. Otherwise, go to C" (Bernstein). Essentially, guard fields manage patterns and boundaries in a hypertext narrative. However, guard fields may be complex when navigating networks, which may be problematic while a user wishes to create a story. "Networks of complex guard fields can be tricky to test and edit, because information about the work's structure is scattered across dozens or hundreds of links" (Bernstein).

Furthermore, Twinery is not a functional model for generating profits, it is merely a hobbyist tool to create narratives which may be problematic for actual novelists. "Capitalism may be a bad thing, but it's not our fault, and as artists we need to inhabit a world in which the economy exists. Twinery and the hypertext novels depreciate the values of books and equate them to hobbies, which may hurt the revenue of other authors.