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Week 1: Blog post

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**How do the readings relate to the ideas and ideals of the internet (and/or WWW)?**

According to Borge in, *“The Library of Babel”*, a specific library is described as “infinite”, where it contains every book to ever exist, although the library is infinite and not the books. The books are meant to have meaning, regardless if it is another language, and much like the library, in this case, every page on the internet has some type of meaning, regardless if it is important or not. Borge explains that the library was expected to solve every problem in the universe, it did not, and the books are very random with different letter combinations, making each book unique. The library can be compared to an algorithm, an algorithm can be defined as rules that are used for problem-solving. The internet is very much similar to this with its algorithms and how it has its own problem-solving techniques.

Borge states that there are no two identical books in this library as they are all unique, with the random information that they contain. The internet is also a vast place of knowledge and contains almost everything, likewise to the library, it has unique pages that can be identified through a page’s URL. This is known as a “Uniform Resource Locator”, it is a distinctive sentence that is used as a web page’s address, there are no URLs that are the same.

The books in the library are very random, they consist of all the letters in a randomized way, which makes it quite hard to interpret or find a meaning in it. The internet is almost the same, where random data is produced when something is being searched for, yet it is processed and results in outcomes that can actually be understood by people, returning their searches in a sensible way.

*“The Garden of Forking Paths”*, also written by Borges, has a more detailed, underlying meaning, which does compare to certain aspects of the internet. The story does present a concept of time, considering how Yu Tsun had ended up in the exact same labyrinth that his forefather had created. The way the events had played out was proof that a certain event can happen in a multiple amount of times and have quite different outcomes. The labyrinth and book that was created by Ts’ui Pen were actually linked in a way that made sense together, where the paths are the same, different outcomes can occur.

Just like this story, a quality of the internet does make its first appearance, the “Hypertext”, this is a way where a set of items can link to each other. In the case of the internet, a hypertext is a link to another website or web page that is very much similar to your original search. The time aspect in the story explains that time and events have certain pathways that split and come together, and can possibly be parallel to each other, very much like the hypertext. These can be never ending as well, considering the internet is almost infinite too, links can be cycles that lead you to different “pathways”, resulting in different outcomes.

# References

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