

Dante's Divine Comedy

Research Question

I am visualizing Dante's Divine Comedy because I want to show how visualization and text interact in order to see how GUI platforms can expand subjective/collective engagement with text worlds.

Thesis Questions

- What is a "reading" in the context of GUI
- How is reading/visualization an expressive act
- How we do maintain/lose the primacy of text as the basis for complex meaning creation
- the primacy of text as the basis of shared experience
- Story/Poetic Structure as foundation for imaginative expansion
- That to Dante the text was more "real" than the world
- How can a virtual/metaphysical world be built from a source text
- How does that differ from a computer's facility for image making
- Text to world theory
- phantasm and metalanguage
- Source text in Italian: machine will read that part
- Text to Visual is a translation
- How is this act form of translation

Audience

- readers
- poets/writers
- translators
- people who are alive
- people who are dead
- academic (only later)
- This will be not built for academics to quibble over meanings, although it will be open to criticism from academics

Subjective Reading as Visualization

- Once the Map (Foundational Visualization) is established a variety of interpretive components can be added based on the mapped or text-based location.
 - Notes/Translations
 - Figures: Image/Sketches/Motion
 - Responses/Personal Info
- Highlighting the Subjectivity of my interpretation
- SOCIAL ASPECT
 - Built to allow for other "readings"
 - No hierarchy of readings, just expanding nodes of interpretation
 - Sharing of subjective experience/Building of complex collective subjectivities
 - sharing of images
 - Built to allow for other to add new components to the world

Machine Reading

create a pattern searching algorithm that reads both the original Italian / the english translation(s)/other translations (as add) / as well as the readings

MAP Foundational Visualization

- INTERACTIVE map of the terrian
 - Hell
 - Downward Spiral
 - Always goes left?
 - Darker/Colder
 - City of Dis
 - Circles
 - Purgatory
 - Upward Spiral (Mountain)
 - Always goes right?
 - 9 levles
 - Ends on Garden
 - Paradise
 - Celestial Bodies
 - Moon/Mercury/
 - Ethereal Spirits
 - Rose
- Time Lapse
 - 7 Days?
 - Time Told Via Celestial Positions
 - Medieval Planetary Model
- Geographical Position
 - Italy -- Jerusalem -- Moon -- Ether -- etc
 - Medieval Geography