

CSCE-675 Digital Libraries: Daily Readings

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I. WHAT IS A DOCUMENT? [1]

Details:

- Year: 1997
- Type: Journal of the American Society for Information Science
- Affiliations: School of Information, Berkeley

Take-away points:

- Ordinarily the word document denotes a textual record. The paper tries to define the term document.
- Increasingly sophisticated attempts to provide access to the rapidly growing quantity of available documents raised questions about what should be considered a document.
- The authors feel that with new digital technology the old questions are renewed and also old confusions between medium, message, and meaning.

II. FIXED OR FLUID?: DOCUMENT STABILITY AND NEW MEDIA [2]

Details:

- Year: 1994
- Type: Proceedings of the 1994 ACM European conference on Hypermedia technology
- Affiliations: Xerox Palo Alto Research Center

Take-away points:

- One of the crucial properties of documents through the ages has been their fixity. The paper tries to understand if this still holds using new media devices.
- In this paper the authors challenges the assertion, that document in new media is fluid, arguing instead that all documents, regardless of medium, are fixed and fluid.
- The author first examines the fixity and fluidity of hypertext and then critiques Bolter's argument in Writing Space concerning the movement from fixed to fluid.

REFERENCES

- [1] M. K. Buckland, "What is a a document?" *Journal of the American Society for Information Science*, vol. 48, no. 9, pp. 804–809, 1997. [Online]. Available: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/\(SICI\)1097-4571\(199709\)48:9;804::AID-ASIS;3.0.CO;2-V](http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1097-4571(199709)48:9;804::AID-ASIS;3.0.CO;2-V)
- [2] D. M. Levy, "Fixed or fluid?: document stability and new media," in *Proceedings of the 1994 ACM European conference on Hypermedia technology*, ser. ECHT '94. New York, NY, USA: ACM, 1994, pp. 24–31. [Online]. Available: <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/192757.192760>