Contents

Acknowledgments ix

1

Hypertext: An Introduction

Hypertextual Derrida, Poststructuralist Nelson? 2 / The Definition of Hypertext and Its History as a Concept 3 / Vannevar Bush and the Memex 7 / Forms of Linking, Their Uses and Limitations 11 / Virtual Texts, Virtual Authors, and Literary Computing 20 / Books Are Technology, Too 25 / Analogues to the Gutenberg Revolution 29

2

Hypertext and Critical Theory

Textual Openness 33 / Hypertext and Intertextuality 35 / Hypertext and Multivocality 36 / Hypertext and Decentering 36 / Hypertext as Rhizome 38 / The Nonlinear Model of the Network in Current Critical Theory 42 / Cause or Convergence, Influence or Confluence? 45

3

Reconfiguring the Text

From Text to Hypertext 49 / The "In Memoriam" Web 51 / Problems with Terminology: What Is the Object We Read, and What Is a Text in Hypertext? 57 / Visual Elements in Print Text 60 / The Fragmented Text 64 /The Dispersed Text 65 / A Third Convergence: Hypertext and Theories of Scholarly Editing 68 / Hypertext, Scholarly Annotation, and the Electronic Scholarly Edition 69 / Hypertext and the Problem of Text Structure 73 / The Living, Transient, Time-Bound Text—William J. Mitchell's City of Bits Project 75 / Argumentation, Organization, and Rhetoric 76 / Beginnings and Endings in the Borderless Text 77 / Boundaries of the Borderless Text 79 / The Status of the Text, Status in the Text 84 / Hypertext and Decentrality: The Philosophical Grounding 88

4

Reconfiguring the Author

Erosion of the Self 90 / How I Am Writing This Book 96 / Virtual Presence 103 / Collaborative Writing, Collaborative Authorship 104

5

Reconfiguring Writing

The Problematic Concept of Disorientation 115 / The Rhetoric and Stylistics of Writing for E-Space; or, How Should We Write Hypertext? 123 / Hypertext as Collage 167

Reconfiguring Narrative

Approaches to Hypertext Fiction: Some Opening Remarks 178 / Hypertext and the Aristotelian Conception of Plot 181 / Quasi Hypertextuality in Print Texts 182 / Answering Aristotle: Hypertext and the Nonlinear Plot 184 / Print Anticipations of Multilinear Narratives in E-Space 186 / Narrative Beginnings and Endings 189 / Narrative Endings and Hypertext 190 / Michael Joyce's Afternoon: The Reader's Experience as Author 192 / Stitching together Narrative, Sexuality, and Self: Shelley Jackson's Patchwork Girl 197 / Quibbling, a Feminist Rhizome Narrative 205 / Storyworlds and Other Forms of Hypertext Narratives 208 / From Narration to Poetry? 215

7

Reconfiguring Literary Education

Threats and Promises 219 / Reconfiguring the Instructor 222 / Reconfiguring the Student 225 / Learning the Culture of a Discipline 226 / Nontraditional Students: Distant Learners and Readers outside Educational Institutions 228 / The Effects of Hypermedia in Teaching 229 / Reconfiguring Assignments and Methods of Evaluation 231 / Examples of Collaborative Learning 235 / Reconceiving Canon and Curriculum 245 / Inventing the New Writing 255 / After Intermedia 262 / What Chance Has Hypertext in Education? 265

8

The Politics of Hypertext: Who Controls the Text?

Answered Prayers; or, The Politics of Resistance 267 / The Marginalization of Technology and the Mystification of Literature 269 / The Politics of Particular Technologies 273 / The Political Vision of Hypertext; or, The Message in the Medium 281 / The Politics of Access: Who Can Make Links, Who Decides What Is Linked? 285 / Ms. Austen's Submission 289 / Pornography, Gambling, and Law on the Internet: Vulnerability and Invulnerability in E-Space 296 / Access to the Text and the Author's Right (Copyright) 300

An Open-Ended Conclusion; or, The Dispatch Comes to an End 307