Old Forms & New Documents

An Experiment With Hypertextual Glossaries

Overarching Goal

• Enabling people to use e-journals as easily & effectively as paper documents
  – Reading
  – ‘Notemaking’
    • Annotation
    • Cross references (intra- & inter-document)
  – Multi-page views
• Readers incorporating new knowledge through interaction with documents

Relative Advantages

• Paper
  – Easy to write on
  – Easy to read
  – Pliant (foldable)
  – Maintains page order

• Computer Files
  – Need electronic input
  – Hard to read for long
  – Rigid
  – Easy to alter order and insert new parts

Electronic Paper — A partial solution perhaps

Steps Towards Our Goal

• People need to adapt to new technology
• Easiest to adapt from familiar use patterns to novel interfaces
• But people adapt their behaviour to available technology
• So… need to find out how people use existing paper-based technology first
Role of Annotation

• Substantial interest in annotation in both HCI and HT Research Communities
  - A way for people to make docs their own
  - A way to maintain concentration
  - Questions
    • Why do people annotate?
    • How do they annotate?
    • How do they use those marks later?
• Glossaries as a special form

The Current Experiment

See the draft article

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So what is Hypertext exactly?

'Text which does not form a single sequence and which may be read in various orders; specially text and graphics … which are interconnected in such a way that a reader of the material (as displayed at a computer terminal, etc.) can discontinue reading one document at certain points in order to consult other related matter.'