

Literary
MACHINES

FIRST EDITION

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TED NELSON, PUBLISHER

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LITERARY

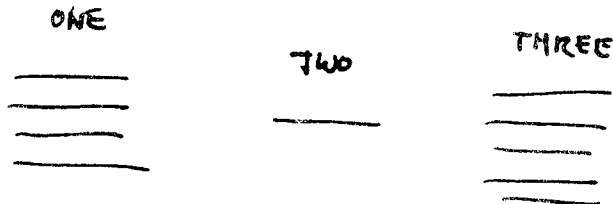
THE REPORT ON, AND OF, PROJECT XANADU
CONCERNING
WORD PROCESSING,
ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING,
HYPERTEXT, THINKERTOYS,
TOMORROW'S INTELLECTUAL REVOLUTION,
AND CERTAIN OTHER TOPICS
INCLUDING
KNOWLEDGE, EDUCATION AND FREEDOM.

MACHINES

by Ted Nelson

This book is a hypertext, or non-sequential piece of writing.

It is partly about hypertext, or non-sequential writing, and using a hypertext form will, I hope, help communicate some of the benefits of such writing.



PLAN OF THIS BOOK

There are several Chapters One, one Chapter Two, and several Chapters Three.

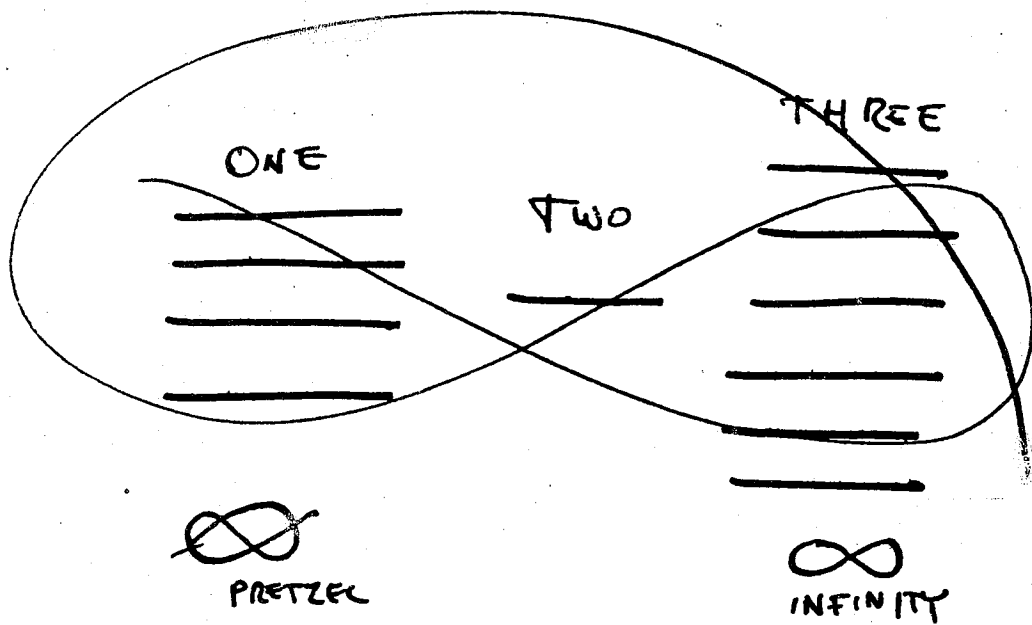
It is suggested that you read any of the introductory Chapters One first, and then Chapter Two; which is the heart of the book. You may or may not feel that you understand it fully.

It is suggested that you then read one of the closing chapters. This will help you see what the future of the system is supposed to be about.

At this point it is suggested that you read another of the introductory Chapters One, and look over Chapter Two again. You will almost certainly understand it better.

Continue in this vein, passing repeatedly through Chapter Two, until you understand this book.

Pretzel or infinity. It's up to you.



Whenever a work's structure is intentionally one of its own themes, another of its themes is art.

Annie Dillard

There are also several Chapters Four, which deal (insofar as possible) with certain technical aspects of the system.

No instruction for reading these chapters is provided.

DEDICATION

This book, and the system it foretells,
are dedicated to

Eric Blair (1903-1950)

better known by his pen-name

"GEORGE ORWELL";

an acute, sad and bitter
observer and prognosticator
who understood tyranny perhaps better than any tyrant,
who understood information control
long ahead of the rest of us;
and who left us cunning, elegant and timely warnings.

Somehow many take his name to stand for
all that he despised;
so that the word "Orwellian,"
meaning tyrannical, oppressive, mind-controlling,
and futuristically threatening,
is itself the perfect example
of the twisted Newspeak he foresaw.

**May his simple, honest, angry devotion
to truth and human freedom
live forever.**

*Give me a lever long enough
and I will move the world.*

Archimedes,
as generally
misquoted

*Words without thoughts
never to Heaven go.*

Hamlet

*Extremism in the
defense of liberty
is no vice.*

Barry Goldwater

*Litera scripta manet.
(The written word remains.)*

Horace

*Toto, something tells me
we're not in Kansas anymore.*

Goldwyn's Dorothy