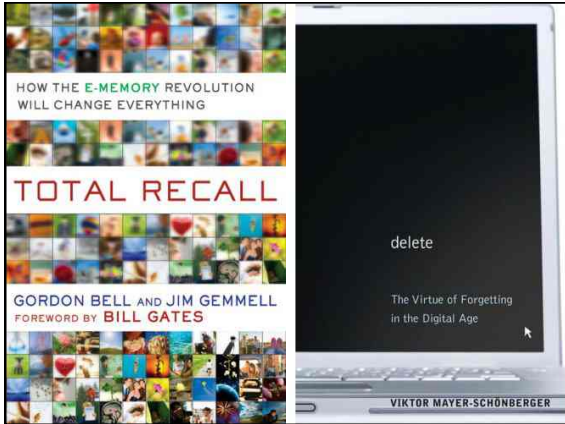

The noise in the archive

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Jean-François Blanchette
 Department of Information Studies,
 University of California, Los Angeles



On the record, all the time

- *Bell*: “successful people don’t shy away from the honest record. ... In court, we ask for the truth, the *whole* truth, and nothing but the truth. It might be painful, but I believe better memory is really better.”
- *Mayer-Schönberger*: the individual and collective unlearning of “one of the most fundamental behavioral mechanisms of humankind” will leave us unable to act in the present.

Perfect remembering

- *Bell*: in contrast to its biological counterpart, “digital memory is objective, dispassionate, prosaic, and unforgivingly accurate.”
- *Mayer-Schönberger*: digital information is superior to all previous analog forms of remembering “because it lacks the noise problem,” – it does not decay with use, reproduction, or time.



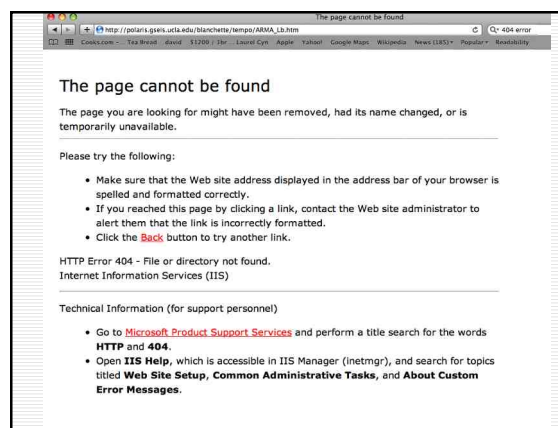
Three propositions:

1. The medium is *still* the message. "Form is constitutive of information, not its transparent representation" (Drucker 2009);
2. The specific material instantiations of informational artifacts are always undergoing changes, aging, crumbling, acquiring or resisting wear;
3. Any "memory regime" includes both structural and intentional forms of forgetting.

Structural forgetting

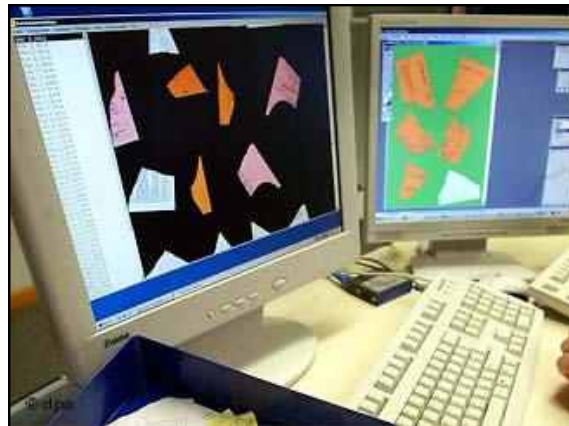
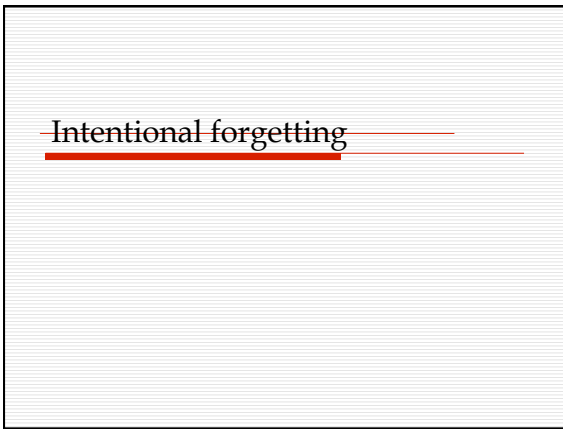
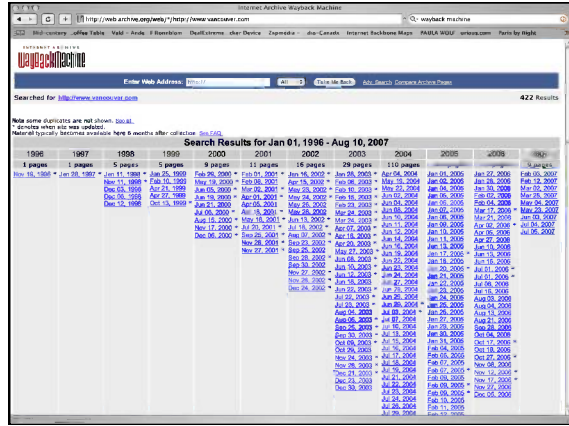
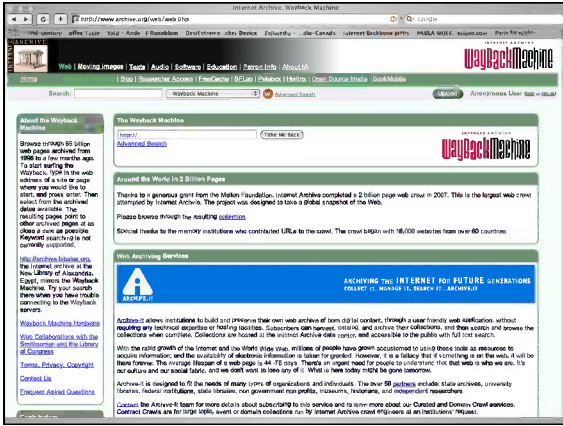
Unavailability of data

- Incompatibilities exhibited by file formats, hardware platforms, and software applications (digital preservation problem);
- Hard drive crash, improper backups, content licensing that constrain the availability of documents;
- Classification, description, and characteristics of search algorithms induce a certain stratification of archives.



Exclusion

- Through technical processes (the temporal or spatial resolution of a sensor)
- Appraisal policies (Bell only keeps what he reads, not what he's been sent)
- Cultural/legal norms (consent)
- Intellectual property (Jim Gray's laptop)
- Self-selection



Like any other media, digital media brings to the table its own dialectics of objectivity and subjectivity, signal and noise, integrity and decay, authenticity and forgery, transparency and censorship, remembrance and repression. *These dialectics are never fully determined by the material characteristics of the technology.*

Coordonnées

Jean-François Blanchette
Information Studies Department, UCLA
blanchette@ucla.edu
<http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu>