

The End of Illiteracy

By 2020 elimination of the world's last pockets of illiteracy will be underway. Humankind will be rapidly transforming itself from its present partially literate condition into an era of universal literacy – and everyone will be being conscripted into the war against ignorance. In the 15th century, the invention of movable metal type made possible an era of mass literacy and public education. In the 21st century, a new kind of movable type will propel the world into an age of superliteracy and high enlightenment.

That new kind of movable type is a software invention, *interactive movable type*. This new type will make possible a new and different kind of relationship between readers and text. The constraints that are presently imposed on the readers of today's conventional text will not be there with text set in interactive movable type (see "[How We Handicap Readers](#)"). The opacity that conventional text now has for the illiterate individual will be gone. The words that are set in interactive movable type will be highly transparent. The words set in the interactive text will be supported by extensive reference substructures that will answer any question the reader may have about any word in the text. The data about the word in the substructure will include pronunciations, definitions, grammatical characteristics, etymology, and (when they exist) synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homographs. To make a word fully comprehensible, the reader may be provided with examples of use, pictures, drawings, maps, charts, tables, voices, music, sound effects, computer graphic representations, video segments, and any other descriptive information about the word that may be available in the pertinent reference substructure (which, in a widely used language like English, will often contain the equivalent of millions of pages of explanatory reference materials).

Another major change in the relationship between each reader and interactive text will be the reader's role in designing each publication before it is to be read. With today's publications, readers have few choices in how a publication is to be presented to them. With today's publications, the publisher makes most or all of the design decisions. Thus, fixed, static "one size fits all" images are delivered to the reader who is able to make few changes in how the publication is presented. With text set in interactive movable type, the reader will have available an array of powerful, but easy to use, new flexible display tools that will facilitate the apprehension and understanding of the publication's text elements. With publications set in interactive movable type, the reader will be able to function as the co-designer of each of the publications he or she is about to consume.

Readers will have many choices when consuming the digital publications set in interactive movable type that are called *mudocs*. ("Mudoc" is a contraction of "**m**eaning **u**nit **d**ocument" – and the interactive movable type software used to control each mudoc is usually called "the mudoc software".)

When a mudoc is delivered to a reader, it will come with two sets of display specifications that are provided by the publisher. One set will be for displaying pages of static text. The other set will be for displaying the document as a movie. The reader will be able to change any of those specifications before reading – or after starting to read – the document. Most readers will have developed default sets of specs that satisfy their particular needs and desires. So, before starting to read, the reader can choose to have the mudoc presented using the specs provided by the publisher – or they can proceed using the personal default specs they have developed for their own use. And, they can change any of those specs at any time.

Page 2 of . . . **The End of Illiteracy**

Below are some of the choices that will be available to the reader when consuming a mudoc. Each reader can . . .

1. Have the text displayed in either the conventional linear typography – or in the mu typography in a one-line, two-line, three-line, four-line, or five-line mu format.
2. Specify the type size, typeface, and the spacing specifications they desire.
3. Have the text presented either visually or aurally – or as synchotext (that is both visually and aurally at the same time).
4. Have text that is aurally presented delivered as compressed speech at any rate from one word to 900 words per minute.
5. Choose to have text that is presented aurally employ either of two methods of delivery. The first is to use the synthetic text-to-speech software that will be available with the mudoc software. Alternatively, the reader can choose the digitized speech recording that may be provided with the mudoc. (Many of the documents offered as mudocs will include synchronized voice recordings that have been made by the author or a professional reader.)
6. Have the text presented either as pages of static displays or as movies.
7. Have movies delivered at any rate from one muglyph (meaning unit) per second to 20 muglyphs per second.
8. Stop a movie at any point and have a page of static text displayed with the stopped-on muglyph shown in the center of the page.
9. Stop a text presentation on any word and bring up any desired data about the word from the mudoc reference substructure.

Additional sources of information about interactive movable type

The Mudoc Corporation website, mudoc.com, has many pages that describe the nature and use of interactive movable type, including many examples of easier-to-read text set in the mu typography. One of the pages is the preliminary script for “[The Coming Revolution in Writing and Reading](#)”. That’s an interactive video presentation, which is now in pre-production. When completed it will be offered on mudoc.com. At the present time an 18-minute video presentation called *MovieTime* is available at Kickstarter. To watch it, simply log on to Kickstarter.com, then click on Search Projects and enter “mudoc”, then click on “Interactive Movable Type,” then click on “PLAY”.

Invitation to participate

If you would like to get involved in the development and/or implementation of interactive movable type and/or the other tools of the mudoc technology, see our Web page, “[Call for Collaborators, Contributors, and Co-conspirators](#)”.

Wayne Reed Porter

The Mudoc Corporation

Developers of interactive movable type

and the other tools of the mudoc technology

(mudoc is a contraction of "meaning unit document"

and is pronounced with a long u as in "music")

website: www.mudoc.com

email: mudocman@gmail.com

mail: 616 East Julie Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283-2914

phone: 602-265-1864

Fax: 480-347-2701