ART SPARK

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOW SMALL TOOLS COULD MAKE BIG DIFFERENCES

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TINDERBOX: the tool for notes

- Making notes
- Analyzing notes
- Sharing notes
Symbol manipulation is what computers do best

Screens are an impoverished visual environment
  ... but they’re adequate for reading and writing

The gap from sign to significand (character string to meaning) is easier to efface when we’re working with words.
(some of)
my notes from
Tinderbox Weekend
Boston, Feb. 2005

Tinderbox Basics
- Customizing the Interface
- Linking
- Dragging text from browsers
- Documents grow in unpredictable directions
- Prototypes and Classes

Weblogs, Health Care, Tinderbox
- Medical knowledge triples every 3
- Shared knowledge increased; shared ignorance

big picture
Learning from Lindsay

a key use case for the design of Tinderbox

http://eastgate.com/storyspace/art/Taylor1.html

Pamela G. Taylor

Lindsay’s Story: Hypertext and Liberation in High School

by Pamela G. Taylor
University of Georgia

Once we got out of the line he grabbed me by the arm and said "What have I told you about talking so loud?" It always made me mad that he could yell at me in front of all kinds of people and let anyone he felt like know our private business, but when it came to me talking about our problems and relationship, I had better just keep my mouth shut. I never said anything to him about that, though. So anyway, I broke away from his grasp and started walking away from him. He ran after me and this time grabbed me by the neck, "Don’t walk away from me!" he said. I broke free again and started...
Learning from Lindsay

- You’ve got to write it down
- You’ve got to look at it again
- ....and again
- You’ve got to LOOK
- Talk about it, and to it.
Visual Hypertext
important related research

Kumiyo Nakakoji
Tokyo
ART

Cathy Marshall
Microsoft
VIKI

Frank Shipman
Texas A&M
VKB
Where do we put stuff?
piles and files
walls
Of Day Of Night

memory

http://eastgate.com
Shelley Jackson

Patchwork Girl

http://eastgate.com
writing spaces
sharing notes on the web

One of the nice things we can do, once we have interlinked electronic notes, is share them.

The Web gives us a convenient, popular, neutral medium for sharing.
A few weblogs have LOTS of readers. Some are read as widely as syndicated newspaper columnists.

But there are only a few of these weblogs.
it’s good to write for your mom

- It’s fine to create work that only a few people read
- Is your mother the only person who visits your site? *It’s good to write to your mother!*
- The natural audience for lots of important art is small
  - monastic painting
  - genre painting
  - performance art
the long tail

About ten weblogs get at least 150,000 visitors every day.
About 2000 weblogs get thousands of visitors every day.
About 100,000 weblogs get 60 visitors a day.
Several million weblogs average a handful of visits a day.

low-traffic weblogs matter because they are numerous!
passion

You can only sell each painting once....

Sharing notes and sketches with others – and with your future self – gives you a chance to reach an audience that cares. Box office doesn’t matter.
we don’t know

Tinderbox is priced to encourage experimentation
Frequent updates
Great licenses for small and large courses
Tinderbox weekends
Seminars, lectures, workshops

We don’t know what we’re doing. Tell us!

http://www.eastgate.com