

## The End of Illiteracy

By 2020 the last pockets of illiteracy around the world will have been eliminated. Humankind will be moving rapidly into an era of superliteracy – and everyone will have been conscripted into the war against ignorance. In the fifteenth 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 era of universal literacy 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. Instead of making rapid jerky eye movements along narrow lines of print on paper (or on a computer screen), as we now do, readers will be sailing along over perceptually-logical text arrays that are not only easier to see and understand, but that offer a new kind of transparency in meaning. The words 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. Other information about the word may include 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 reference materials and sources).

Another major change in the relationship between readers and text will be the reader's role in designing publications before they are 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 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 publication they consume.

Below are some of the choices the reader will have 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 is usually called "the mudoc software".)

### **Choices the reader will have when consuming mudocs**

When a mudoc (a digital document with its text set in interactive movable type) is delivered to a reader, it will come with two sets of display specifications 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 specs 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 the specifications at any time.

Below are some of the choices that will be available to the reader when consuming a mudoc. The 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 typeface, type size, type style and the spacing specifications they desire.
3. Have the text presented either visually or aurally – or as simultext (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 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, <http://www.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” and can be seen at <http://www.mudoc.com/crwr/cwrscr1.htm>. That’s an interactive video presentation, which is now in pre-production. When completed it will be offered on mudoc.com. An 18-minute video presentation on DVD called *MovieTime* is already available on request from The Mudoc Corporation. If you would like a free copy, simply send your name and mailing address to [DVDbrequest@mudoc.com](mailto:DVDbrequest@mudoc.com), and a copy will be mailed to you. (A poorly reproduced copy of *MovieTime* is now available on YouTube.com, but the DVD provides better-defined text images.)

### **Invitation to participate**

If you would like to get involved in the development and/or implementation of interactive movable type and the other tools of the mudoc technology, see our Web page, “Call for Collaborators, Contributors, and Co-conspirators” at <http://mudoc.com/collab.htm>.

s/Wayne Reed Porter

The Mudoc Corporation  
Developers of interactive movable type  
and the 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](http://www.mudoc.com)  
email: [wrporter@mudoc.com](mailto:wrporter@mudoc.com)  
mail: 616 East Julie Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283-2914  
phone: 602-265-1864