“MOST PEOPLE ARE FOOLS, MOST AUTHORITY IS MALIGNANT, GOD DOES NOT EXIST, AND EVERYTHING IS WRONG.”
“WE FORESAW IN 1960 THAT ALL DOCUMENT WORK WOULD MIGRATE TO THE INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SCREEN, SO WE COULD WRITE IN NEW WAYS--
- PAPER ENFORCES SEQUENCE-- WE COULD ESCAPE THAT!
- PAPER DOCUMENTS CAN’T BE CONNECTED-- WE COULD ESCAPE THAT!
- THIS MEANS A DIFFERENT FORM OF WRITING
- THIS MEANS A DIFFERENT FORM OF PUBLISHING
- THIS MEANS A DIFFERENT DOCUMENT FORMAT, TO SEND PEOPLE AND TO ARCHIVE.
WE SCREWED UP IN THE 1980S,
AND MISSED OUR CHANCE TO BE WORLD WIDE HYPERTEXT (THE WEB GOT THAT NICHE).
HOWEVER, WE CAN STILL COMPETE WITH PDF, WHICH SIMULATES PAPER,
BY SHOWING TEXT CONNECTIONS.”
The Xanadu Document Model
-- built on the assumption of perpetual change and re-use

A document is delivered as a LIST of contents—a virtual file. This is the fundamental form.

Content is available as requested by each reader, to fill in the virtual file.

AVAILABLE CONTENTS
-- an ever-growing addressable pool, or indexable carpet
“THE WORLD WIDE WEB WAS PRECISELY WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO PREVENT—EVER-BREAKING LINKS, LINKS GOING OUTWARD ONLY, QUOTES YOU CAN’T FOLLOW TO THEIR ORIGINS, NO VERSION MANAGEMENT, NO RIGHTS MANAGEMENT.”
After all, dumbing down Xanadu sure worked well for Tim Berners-Lee!

(Ted Nelson)
You can get there from here,
But can you get here from there?
The concept of “hypertext”

Hypertext is basically the same as regular text - it can be stored, read, searched, or edited - with an important exception: hypertext contains connections within the text to other documents.

Selecting a piece of hypertext...

...can take you to more hypertext, books, movies, sounds, and images.
hypertext

thinking ideas

synthesis

connect meaning

thoughts

minds constructivism

network construct

alive constructing

analysis link

connecting connected

linking words
Computer Lib/Dream Machines

Ted Nelson (1976)
Cyber Sex
The good news about computers is that they do what you tell them to do. The bad news is that they do what you tell them to do.

Ted Nelson
FURTHER READING:

HTTP://WWW.LIVINGINTERNET.COM/W/WI_NELSON.HTM

HTTP://WWW.XANADU.COM/


HTTP://WWW.NEWMEDIAREADER.COM/BOOK_SAMPLES/NMR-21-NELSON.PDF

HTTP://HISTORY-COMPUTER.COM/INTERNET/BIRTH/NELSON.HTML