



SAIC WIRED: LAPTOP LITERACY + DIGITAL IMAGING

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WIRED ONLINE: www.artic.edu/webspaces/saicwired

WIRED WEEK 12: Social bookmarking, folksonomies, collaborative archiving as a research tool. Case study: *delicious*. Discussion: Borges.

STUDY THESE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION: Borges

- 1) In the Borges story, who is the Captain Richard Madden character? What role does he play?
- 2) What is the narrator of the story's occupation?
- 3) Who is Stephen Albert? What significance does his name hold for the spy/narrator of the story?
- 4) What is Ts'ui Pen's labyrinth? Pen says "I am withdrawing to write a book...I am withdrawing to construct a labyrinth."
- 5) Did Pen create a maze or a book or both? Describe.
- 6) In Ts'ui Pen's letter he says: "I leave to the various futures (not to all) my garden of forking paths." What is the Garden of Forking Paths?
- 7) The so-called garden is a book, and infinite book. The forking occurs in time---you can read only one section of the story at a time. Ts'ui Pen creates "diverse futures, diverse times which themselves proliferate and fork." Can you discuss further Ts'ui's concept of time?
- 8) "I imagined a labyrinth of labyrinths, a sinuous spreading path that would contain both past and future and somehow imply the stars." How do quotations like this one stimulate web theorists to use Borges as an early supporter or proponent of hypertext strategies of creating stories?
- 9) How does Ts'ui Pen's solution to the "abysmal problem of time" provide an apt metaphor for the experience of both surfing the web and producing content for the web? Do you believe that the web is infinite? Can a piece of writing or a collage be infinite?
- 10) Through the characters and the plot, do you have any opinion of Borges' perception of World War II?

CASE STUDY: <http://del.icio.us/>

Instructors will demonstrate how to set up an online archive of shared bookmarks using the software provided by the del.icio.us website.

HOMework

>Sketch 10 Create an online bookmark archive (add 10 bookmarks) using Delicious. Add your Delicious bookmark archive as a link to your "links.html" page (Sketch 7).

>Reading Jodi Dean, Multiple Reality, 2001.
<http://www.mediamatic.net/article-200.5904.html>