



SAIC WIRED

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WIRED WEEK 9: *Discussion Vannevar Bush*

- 1) What year was Bush's article written? Where was it published? What kind of audience was this written for?
- 2) What does the editor's comment prior to the Atlantic Monthly essay say about Bush's feelings about WWII? Bush alludes to this himself also in the first few paragraphs of the essay.
- 3) Who was Bush? What kind of research did he do before WWII? Specifically, what kind of collaborative research did he do? (Available in introduction to article in the New Media Reader (NMR), additional info: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vannevar_Bush).
- 4) What was Bush's true passion and research interest?
- 5) What does Bush say about progress? In particular, what is his general attitude about increasing specialization to fuel advancements in science (p. 37, NMR)?
- 6) As you read through the article, what devices of the future does Bush talk about?
- 7) What is the Memex? (p.44-45, NMR) What would a user wish to do with the Memex?
- 8) What medium is the Memex's vast storehouse of information written on? (p.44, NMR)
- 9) On page 44, Bush makes a distinction about how libraries index information (alphanumeric systems) and how the human brain works (association). In this section, Bush discusses his concept of trails. What are trails, and how might they be useful on a device like the Memex?
- 10) Today do we have any software that allows us a "trails-like" glimpse our actions? What are some examples?
- 11) Why do you think Bush's conceptual invention, the Memex is significant?
- 12) Why do the writers of the introduction to this essay believe Bush's contributions to be vital to creative individuals interested in knowledge management tools?
- 13) What tools do we have today that are similar in concept to the Memex?

HOMWORK

>Reading Select an artist's website and/or a designer's website whose layout and interface you admire. Be prepared to show this in class/and/or upload to the Portal as a resource.