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Remoteness and the Value of Sharing

Ranulph Glanville

School of Architecture and Centre for New Media Research
University of Portsmouth, King Henry I St
Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 2DY, UK

Introduction

The technology of the near future creates the possibility of the Virtual Studio. The Virtual Studio emphasises the importance of sharing (co-operative working, interaction, updating: the importance of "betweenness").

It also emphasises the means by which we create the Virtual Studio and its intersection with what we normally call "reality". And the means by which we share.

Remoteness, and the Value of Sharing

The value of virtuality is that we are not there (but we think we are). Thus, we are (physically or otherwise) remote, distinct, distant. Virtuality allows us to seem close, present, together.

The value of Remoteness is that we become aware of being apart, separate, and so a lack of sharing. This can:
- make sharing explicit
- show us whether or not we wish to share
- open opportunities that reflect the qualities of how (we use the medium) to share

Virtual Studio

The means for sharing of the Virtual Studio (the medium—and mechanism—ie substantially the medium of computing, in the broadest sense) are not neutral (which we know to be the case with all media). They have properties which we can discover through analytical thinking, observation, and calculated abuse, including:
- perfect, innumerable copies (implying that ownership is untenable and impracticable)
- (extensive) transformations of all sorts
- collaging and montaging and assemblaging

Added to this are the properties of the type of interaction, especially:
- real time conversation within a group (ie, on the "net")
- stored and clustered (and organised by group members) between a group (ie, on "disc")

It is important that we study and accommodate the characteristics of the media of the Virtual Studio, in order to:
- not work against these characteristics (unintentionally)
- gain the most benefit from the media
- leave room for what the medium may offer/add (ie, for surprise)

Creative Conclusion

We may, thus, be better able to tune our appreciation and work towards (Ashby type) Variety increase, giving us more creative options (within the reasonableness of handlability) and to benefit the quality of involvement and outcome for participants of all sorts.

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