

## **Distributed Narrative: Telling Stories Across Networks**

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### **Abstract**

A new kind of narrative is emerging from the network: the distributed narrative. Distributed narratives don't bring media together to make a total artwork. Distributed narratives explode the work altogether, sending fragments and shards across media, through the network and sometimes into the physical spaces that we live in. This paper begins an investigation into this new narrative trend, looking at how narrative is spun across the network and into our lives.

### **Introduction**

We're used to narratives that have clear boundaries. Books have covers, feature films have title sequences and credits, and fairy tales have "Once upon a times" and "Happily ever afters." We have developed many ways of marking Aristotle's beginning, middle and end, both material (the darkening of the theatre, the title page of the book) and stylistic (the exposition, the denouement). Even as hypertext theorists began talking of books without ends (Douglas 2000), early hypertext fictions were published on diskettes, with covers and a limited number of nodes. Even on the web, most electronic literature today is self-contained, with few if any external links.

Distributed narratives are stories that aren't self-contained. They're stories that can't be experienced in a single session or in a single space. They're stories that cross over into our daily lives, becoming as ubiquitous as the network that fosters them.

This paper attempts to provide a map of distributive narratives. This is not an easy task, because it is hard to describe and locate things that are not *things* but connections. Trying to see how narratives can be split open and spread like this is important, because narratives are one of our main ways of understanding ourselves and of understanding our world. When the world changes, our ways of understanding it must change too, and as distributed

# Distributed Narrative Telling Stories Across Networks

**Ed Bowker Staff, Staff Bowker, Ed**



## **Distributed Narrative Telling Stories Across Networks:**

*Internet Research Annual* Mia Consalvo, Kate O'Riordan, 2005 This peer reviewed collection represents some of the finest research presented at the 2004 Association of Internet Researchers Conference held in Sussex in 2004 Responding to the theme of ubiquity papers collected here represent a diverse range of inquiries into the development as well as perceived development of the Internet Offering new and important work about blogs online games users norms and access to name just a few topics this collection is a must read for Internet scholars intent on keeping pace with a rapidly expanding field

*Visual Storytelling in the 21st Century* David Callahan, 2024-10-14 This volume will explore varying contemporary strategies and examples of visual storytelling across several contemporary spheres from street art to video games from media for children to media for adults from images in movement to static images It reads these storytelling venues in terms of the ethical itineraries that we live by or would like to live by or wish the world lived by In this sense it relates to the fact that the term narrative has become a ubiquitous shorthand for discursive dominance Observers of widely varying aspects of social life talk for example of changing the narrative claiming the narrative overhauling the narrative or owning the narrative While these general contexts are well known there remains a need to continually interrogate new examples of storytelling forms new cases of the uses of stories in differing formats and new stories in general This perpetual need is what this volume aims to respond to by way of its mixture of contemporary storytelling locations and exemplars [Narrative: The Basics](#)

Bronwen Thomas, 2015-11-19 Providing an up to date and accessible overview of the essentials of narrative theory *Narrative The Basics* guides the reader through the major approaches to the study of narrative using contemporary examples from a wide range of narrative forms to answer key questions including What is narrative What are the universals of narrative What is the relationship between narrative and ideology Does the reader have a role in narrative Has the digital age brought radically new forms of narrative Each chapter introduces key theoretical terms providing thinking points and suggestions for further study With an emphasis on applying theory to example studies it is an ideal introduction to the current study of narrative

**Blogging from Egypt** Teresa Pepe, 2019-01-03 Six years before the Egyptian revolution of January 2011 many young Egyptians had resorted to blogging as a means of self expression and literary creativity This resulted in the emergence of a new literary genre the autofictional blog Such blogs are explored here as forms of digital literature combining literary analysis and interviews with the authors The blogs analysed give readers a glimpse into the daily lives feelings and aspirations of the Egyptian youth who have pushed the country towards a cultural and political revolution The narratives are also indicative of significant aesthetic and political developments taking place in Arabic literature and culture  **The**

**Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory** Paul Dawson, Maria Mäkelä, 2022-07-18 The Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory brings together top scholars in the field to explore the significance of narrative to pressing social cultural and theoretical issues How does narrative both inform and limit the way we think today From conspiracy theories and social

media movements to racial politics and climate change future scenarios the reach is broad This volume is distinctive for addressing the complicated relations between the interdisciplinary narrative turn in the academy and the contemporary boom of instrumental storytelling in the public sphere The scholars collected here explore new theories of causality experientiality and fictionality challenge normative modes of storytelling and offer polemical accounts of narrative fiction nonfiction and video games Drawing upon the latest research in areas from cognitive sciences to complexity theory the volume provides an accessible entry point for those new to the myriad applications of narrative theory and a point of departure for new scholarship *Internet Research Annual* ,2005 **Literature and Social Media** Bronwen

Thomas,2020-01-31 From Instapoetry to BookTube contemporary literary cultures and practices are increasingly intertwined with social media In this lively and wide ranging study Bronwen Thomas explores how social media provides new ways of connecting with and rediscovering established literary works and authors while also facilitating the emergence of unique and distinctive forms of creative expression The book takes a 360 approach to the subject combining analysis of current forms and practices with an examination of how social media fosters ongoing collaborative discourse amongst both informal and formal literary networks and demonstrating how the participatory practices of social media have the potential to radically transform how literature is produced shared and circulated The first study of its kind to focus specifically on social media Literature and Social Media provides a timely and engaging account of the state of the art while interrogating the rhetoric that so often accompanies discussion of the new in this context *Youth Online* Angela A. Thomas,2007 Youth Online chronicles the stories of young people from several countries the US Australia Canada Switzerland and Holland and their interactions in online communities over a seven year period It examines how young people construct their identities in various social contexts social fantasy role playing and for various social purposes leadership learning power rebellion and romance It explores the ways youth are deploying both visual and literary cues to develop a full sense of presence online and to effectively communicate with their peers Using methods of textual visual and socio psychological analysis this book illuminates the ways in which young people are making sense of their own identities and their place within broader communities **Proceedings of the ... ACM Workshop on Story Representation, Mechanism & Context** ,2004

*Television* Horace Newcomb,2007 Publisher Description **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts** ,2000

**Ethnologia Europaea** ,2009 Jomon Reflections Tatsuo Kobayashi,2004 A fully illustrated introduction to the archaeology of the Jomon period in Japan this book explores the complex relationships between Jomon people and their rich natural environment From the end of the last Ice Age 12 000 years ago to the appearance of rice agriculture around 400 BC Jomon people subsisted by hunting fishing and gathering but abundant and predictable sources of wild food enabled Jomon people to live in large relatively permanent settlements and to develop an elaborate material culture In this book Kobayashi and Kaner explore thematic issues in Jomon archaeology the appearance of sedentism in the Japanese archipelago and the

nature of Jomon settlements the invention of pottery and the development and meaning of regional pottery styles social and spiritual life as well as the astronomical significance of causeway monuments and the conceptualisation of landscape in the Jomon period These ideas are considered in the light of current work in the European Mesolithic and Neolithic setting Jomon archaeology within a global context The book draws extensively on new archaeological information from various parts of Japan including the sites of Sannai Maruyama Isedotai Komankino among others Extensive colour illustrations provide a vivid demonstration of Jomon ideology and creativity Tatsuo Kobayashi is Professor of Archaeology at Kokugakuin University in Tokyo and Director of the Niigata Prefectural Museum of History Simon Kraner is Assistant Director of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

*Computer-supported Cooperative Work and Groupware* Saul Greenberg,1991 Based upon the International Journal of Man Machine Studies special editions published in February and March of 1991 Saul Greenberg s book will provide the novice with insight into the field of computer supported cooperative work and groupware It will also inform the active computer supported cooperative work researcher of several new projects and perspectives With an exhaustive bibliography this will be an essential book for researchers in human computer interaction and artificial intelligence expert systems builders and user interface designers

**The South African Archaeological Bulletin** ,2007 **The British National Bibliography** Arthur James Wells,2007 *The Middle East, Abstracts and Index* ,2002 Broadcasting ,1948 Books In Print 2004-2005 Ed Bowker Staff,Staff Bowker, Ed,2004 **Resources in Education** ,1995

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