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September 28, 2004  
Media in Transition

Presentation and discussion of Readings on Codex Books and Medieval Writers and Readers:

To briefly summarize, all three readings focused on impact of the written word on culture, society and government as it spread through the middle ages and into the Renaissance. I found these readings interesting from a personal perspective and found many parallels to contemporary media change. So, I thought I would take a few issues that piqued my interest and expand upon them in my presentation.

As you all might have guessed, I was most interested in the development of libraries and archives. I would argue that all three readings discuss about how the written word transformed the way we remember, what we remember, and how we produce memory.

Here is what I want to talk about:

### **The Domesday Book and the New Domesday Project**

- Considered in light of the readings, this project highlights how the processes of archiving and documenting history have evolved.
- This project also brings out potential problems with digital archiving and obsolescence

Please look at these links:

- The Domesday Book online: <http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/>
- The New Domesday Project (a.k.a. the Digital Domesday Project): [http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,6903,661093,00.html](http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,661093,00.html)

### **The different approaches and motives of the two Domesday projects bring up questions about early and present day archiving:**

- Changes in use, methods and perception of the government archive
- Personal archiving and the importance of the everyday in contemporary media and history? Should personal stories be considered part of the “official” record? Have changes in historical approach have made personal stories more valid?

- The Domesday Book is online, as are many other manuscripts. How does the digitization of objects change our relationship to them? What value lies in the physical object?
- Are Incan khipu (knotted strings) actually a binary sequence like digital code? Will our own digital objects be unreadable and mysterious to future generations?