Assignment 5 – Due 9/11/03A

1. Data Mapping Project: Moby-Dick Place References

Expand and refine your spatial visualization of the Moby-Dick data set. You may work alone or in groups. You may continue from where you left off in class using Google Fusion Tables, or use a different tool such as CartoDB. If your goals for the project are not feasible with the current data and tools available, reflect on changes you would make to the tools or to the design of the database. Please post a project update on the course website, and be prepared to give a brief presentation of your work to Professor Wyn Kelley, who will be joining us again to talk more about the Melville Electronic Library project.

2. Read “The Database” by Lev Manovich

Manovich claims that the “database and narrative are natural enemies. Competing for the same territory of human culture, each claims an exclusive right to make meaning out of the world.” As you digest Manovich’s argument, think about the confrontations and solutions he points to in the contexts of our previous readings on data-driven methods and of your own work as writers/designers/technologists.

Please post a reading commentary on the course website, and add “The Database” as a tag under Readings in the metadata for your post.