

TECHNOLOGY BREAKING DOWN

A fictionalised blog entry by Phillip Berrie.

In a previous life I was an Information Scientist and my area of research was the preservation of electronic texts. I have since left academia and am now trying to become a writer of speculative fiction. However, there are some issues with the Internet and electronic texts that I feel should be brought to the attention of all writers working today, particularly those making use of digital technology.

You may have heard about the concept of the Digital Dark Ages — if not I suggest you look it up. My studies confirmed this fear for me and despite all my efforts to develop a new paradigm for the recording, authentication and reuse of TEI compliant XML encoded text

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<!-- AI#23946 .. AI#98345: SCAN THISUSER DATA. THREAT? -->
```

```
<!-- AI#98345 .. AI#23946: ALREADY IDENTIFIED. ACTION? -->
```

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<!-- AI#23946 .. AI#98345: CONTINUE MONITOR AND CONTROL. -->
```

```
<!-- AI#98345 .. AI#23946: ACKNOWLEDGED. -->
```

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So having been unable to eliminate all the bugs from the system I'd developed I decided that for a Turing Machine (a computer to the layman) this was an intractable problem and that I'd been wasting my time.

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The effort had cost me greatly though and I think I was on the verge of a mental breakdown when I gave up my life in Academia to concentrate on the more artistic side of my life.

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<p>

Keep writing everybody.

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<p>

Phill Berrie.

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<p>

21st July, 2009.

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