

Judy Malloy:

Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace

On an archaeological journey, phrases on the top page are randomly generated.

MR = Modem Ready
TR = Terminal Ready
SD = Send Data
RD = Receive Data
OH = Off Hook
CD = Carrier Detect
AA = Auto Answer Mode



Judy Malloy



Hunting and Gathering in
Cyberspace

like a miner kneeling by fast moving water.....when all the elegant code.....Mom's screensaver with the shorebirds walking the beach..... Who are you guest2?.....four trails led out of the meadow.....the daily in and out flow of a billion bytes,.....the system logged another response.....instantly reproduced on multiple far flung systems.....the system logged another response.....as if on the same server.....
.....about this work

About this work

When I initially conceived the dense poetic electronic manuscript that eventually became *The Roar of Destiny*, I was an artist in residence in an Arizona State Summer MFA Program at Deep Creek School in Telluride, a place where the town and the school itself were once sites of gold and silver mining. It was an era when the lives of those of us -- who worked virtually and thus spent days and nights online -- were altered, as internet sources metamorphosized into vibrant dense arrays of competing information.

An initial description of the *Roar of Destiny* reads “*The primary interface in this poetic experience of environment and altered environment is a dissolving and reassembling dense structure of phrase links. Radiating from this structure, are story-bearing lexias -- each composed of a narrative fragment that sometimes runs decisively in the center of the screen and sometimes is raggedly merged with peripheral words and hyperlinked phrases.*”

In *Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace, 2025*, the top page (see opening illustration) is a [Hayes Modem](#), and phrases from selected lexias are randomly generated. Clicking on a phrase in this each time generated differently index results in the sound of the modem (turn on autoplay). The sound of the modem echoes again in the environment, and an associated narrative lexia appears.

The reader can either follow the links and proceed more deeply into the narrative , or -- by clicking *Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace* -- return to re-generated opening phrases. Navigation instructions are below:

1. On the top page, click on a phrase

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*Hunting and Gathering in
 Cyberspace*

a continual struggle between the real and the virtual
instantly reproduced on multiple far flung
 systems.....like a miner kneeling by fast moving
 water.....Just a minute, I have to logon
 first.....boxes of ancient 5 1/2 inch disks
the system logged another
 response.....put your posts in the proper places,
 please.....through the black earth of cyberspace to
 the surface of the system.....put your posts in the
 proper places, please.....the center of this former
 mining town.....
regenerate this indexabout this work

2. To the tune of the sound of the modem, a lexia appears. Usually it contains clickable links.

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**The reader, like the narrator,
 is involved in a continual struggle
 between the real and the virtual --
 between stark black-backgrounded paths
 and bluegreen-backgrounded paths
 that follow beside clear mountain streams.
 into uncharted waters..... all the elegant code
 the sound of water [not always obvious to the emperor](#)..... it doesn't
 seem so long ago..... [It was September](#)..... in the gully below my path..... under the
 bourgainvilla..... [while Mom and Dad lie sleeping](#)..... The daily in and out flow
 of a billion bytes..... the smell of green grass..... warm stores by the river..... a
 red front door..... under the eves of the porch..... inside, the text was
 black..... and then I'd wish for..... [making love](#)..... a black
 and white document..... we call our own..... a glass of
 champagne..... "What is the use then of all your
 traveling?".....[Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace](#)**

3. The lexias that appear beneath my drawing are dense poems. Some are about the working environment indoors or outdoors. Some are about the online working environment. Some are

quotes from Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*. These screens are not introduced by the sound of the modem, and they do not contain links. Eventually might they occur with a music box sound, but so far this does not perfectly flow.



"The connections between one element of the story and another were not always obvious to the emperor; the objects could have various meanings; a quiver filled with arrows could indicate the approach of war, or an abundance of time, or else an armorer's shop; an hourglass could mean time passing or time past, or sand, or a place where hourglasses are made,"
Italo Calvino wrote in *Invisible Cities*.

..... into uncharted electronic waters..... when all the elegant code while the grass replenished itself..... where tatoos are drawn on sailor's skin;..... as we march along..... in song and story..... mining my memories..... and the deer and the buffalo play come and sit by my side if you love me.... the smell of hops and honey... The daily in and out flow of a billion bytes..... the smell of green grass.... warm stones by the river..... a red front door..... to the woodpile four times..... under the eves of the porch inside, the text was black..... and then I'd wish for..... making love..... a black and white document..... we call our own..... mustard colored tiles..... a glass of champagne.....
"What is the use then of all your traveling?" **Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace**

How this work was created: Exploring how in the 1990's Silicon Valley mined the internet -- and in contrast there was potential for rural sites of Internet-based information, in late 2024, I mined the data in *The Roar of Destiny*, until with 40 lexias (from the 232 lexias in *The Roar of Destiny*), *Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace* re-created the experience of working online in rural environments in the early years of cyberspace. And, the sound of the modem echoed in woodland environments. A new structure, and new algorithms and images were created, and the work will premiere in July at the 2025 Electronic Literature Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Click [Hunting and Gathering in Cyberspace](#) to run or rerun this work