CHAPTER 8 Glossary

Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
ACM	Association for Computing Machinery
ALA	American Library Association
ARL	Association for Research Libraries
ARPA	Advanced Research Projects Agency
BDF	Bibliotheque de France
CCIRN	Coordinating Committee for Intercontinental Networking
CCL	Common Control Language
CISE	Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, NSF
CIX	Commercial Internet Exchange
CNI	Coalition for Networked Information
CODER	COmposite Document Expert/extended/effective Retrieval System
CNRI	Corporation for National Research Initiatives
CSCW	Computer Supported Cooperative Work
DARPA	Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency

DBMS	Database Management System
DTIC	Defense Technical Information Center
DVI	Digital Video Interactive (TM Intel)
EFF	Electronic Frontier Foundation
GIS	Graphical Information System
HCI	Human-Computer Interaction
HMSO	Her Magesty's Stationery Office (HMSO)
HPCC	High Performance Computing and Communications Initiative
IAB	Internet Architecture Board
IR	Information Retrieval
IRIS	Division of Information, Robotics and Intelligent Systems, NSF
LC	Library of Congress
LEND	Large object-oriented External Network Database
LOC	Library of Congress
NAL	National Agricultural Library
NASA	National Aeronauntics and Space Administration
NECC	National Education Computing Conference
NEH	National Endowment for the Humanities
NEL	National Electronic Library
NIST	National Institute for Standards and Technology
NLM	National Library of Medicine
NREN	National Research and Education Network
NSF	National Science Foundation
NTIS	National Technical Information Service
OCLC	On-line Computer Library Center
OSIS	Office of Science Information Service
RARE	European Reseaux Associees pour la Recherche Europeenne
RLG	Research Libraries Group
STN	Science and Technology Network
TGB	Tres Grande Bibliotheque

TREC Text Retrieval Experiment Conference, sponsored by DARPA and coordinated by NIST, in conjunction with the TIPSTER initiative for routine and ad hoc retrieval from large (e.g., million document) text databases.

WAIS Wide Area Information Server

WWW World-Wide Web

Terms from "Cyberpunk", Time Magazine

From "Cyberpunk", *Time*, February 8, 1993 pages 59-65

Cybernetics - Norbert Wiener of MIT was designing systems for World War II antiaircraft guns when he realized the critical component in a control system, whether animal or mechanical, is a feedback loop that gives a controller information on the results of its actions. He called the study of these control systems cybernetics (from kybernetes, the Greek word for helmsman) and helped pave the way for the electronic brains that we call computers.

Punk - Cyberculture borrows heavily from the rebellious attitude of punk music, sharing with such groups as the Sex Pistols a defiance of mainstream culture and an urge to turn modern technology against itself.

Brain Implants - Slip a microchip into snug contact with your gray matter (a.k.a. wetware) and suddenly gain instant fluency in a foreign language or arcane subject.

Virtual Reality - An interactive technology that creates an illusion, still crude rather than convincing, of being immersed in an artificial world. The user generally dons a computerized glove and a head-mounted display equipped with a TV screen for each eye. Now available as an arcade game.

Internet - The successor of an experimental network build by the U.S. Defense Department in the 1960's, the Internet links at least 3 million computers, many of them university and research related, around the world. Users can connect to the Internet by phone to share information or tap into data banks.

Virtual Communities - Collections of like-minded people who meet on-line and share ideas on everything from politics to punk rock. The global village is full of tiny electronic subdivisions made up of cold-fusion physicists, white supremacists, gerontologists and Grateful Deadheads. Like any other community, each has its own in-jokes, cliques, bozos and bores.

Cyberspace - Science fiction writer William Gibson called it “a consensual hallucination. . . a graphic representation of data abstracted from the bands of every computer in the human system.” You can get there simply by picking up the phone.

Computer Virus - The cybernetic analogue of AIDS, these self-replicating programs infect computers and can destroy data. There are hundreds loose in cyberspace, although few are as destructive as the Internet Virus — which is now classified as a “worm” because the writer of the program did not mean to do dammage.

The Well - Compared with million-plus-member networks such as CompuServe and Prodigy, the Northern California-based Whold Earth ‘Lectronic Link is a tiny outpost in cyberspace. But its 7,000 subsribers include an unusual concentration of artists, activists, journalists and other writers. “It has a regional flavor,” says co-founder Stewart Brand. “You can smell the sourdough.”

Flame - Sociologists note that without visual cues, people communicating on-line tend to flame: to state their views more heatedly then they would face to face.

Neuromancer - William Gibson’s novel is the first to win SF’s triple crown — the Hugo Nebula and Philip K. Dick awards — quickly became a cyberpunk classic, attracting an audience beyond the world of SF. Critics were intrigued by a dense, technopoetic prose style that invites comparisons to Hammett, Burroughs and Pynchon. Computer literate readers were drawn by Gibson’s nightmarish depictions of an imaginary world disturbingly similar to the one they inhabit.

Turing - British mathematician Alan Turing predicted in 1950 that computers would someday be as intelligent as humans.

Artificial Life - Inspired by the behavior of computer viruses, scientists are wondering how sophisticated a computer program or robot would have to be before you could say it was “alive.” One computer-software company, Maxis, has marketed a whole line of simulated anumals, and colonies, cities, train systems and even a planet-like organism called Gaia.

Cryonics - For a price, a terminally ill patient can be frozen — as in the new movie Forever Young — until some future time when a cure has been discovered. Some people save on storage costs by having just their head frozen.

Synaesthesia - From the Greek syn (union) and aesthesia (sensation), synesthesia is a merging of sensory input in which sounds appear as colors in the brain or words evoke a specific taste or smell.