Lecture 22: the book in the electronic age

I. Today as “information age”
   - Information vs knowledge vs data
   - Key devts: transistor (1947) to integrated circuit (aka “chip”); information theory (Shannon, 1948); satellite (1964); networking (arpanet 1960s); PC from 1980s; www 1991 (see Tim Berners-Lee, *Weaving the Web*, 1999)

II. Impacts
   - Liberation, democratization?? For fears of loss see Sven Birkerts, *Gutenberg Elegies*
   - Knowledge vs info: continued (greater?) importance of people; Paul Duguid, *Social life of information* (2002)
   - Constant growth in production of print books; electronic publication supplementing, replacing print publication? Role of peer review, journals = there is always, has always been mediation (whether print or electronic)
   - Impact on social system of literature: harder to imagine! New ways of forming communities. Anyone can be an author.
   - Impact on libraries: continued/improved (?) control/monitoring of access. library as place less important?
   - Greater gap between rich and poor: need for technical environment; but can bypass earlier technologies
   - Censorship: blocking access; self-censorship given commercial power of the web; hard to enforce
   - Copyright: much debated; in flux
   - Archiving: snapshots of the web; how to access the info in centuries to come?
   - Demassification: economies of scale are gone. Centrifugal forces?
   - Overload

Biblio: