Book Culture in the Digital-Network Environment

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Abstract/Long Description

The internet and later the World Wide Web were shaped under the influence of books, book culture, and processes related to the methods of organizing knowledge in books and libraries. This was a result, among others, of the fact that the originators, designers, creators, and engineers involved in creating the internet and Web were raised in the book culture. Initially, essentially the entirety of virtual space was associated with book culture (digital book culture).

In the following decades, the percentage ratio of digital book culture to all digital and network resources changed - at first slowly and later much more quickly, to the disadvantage of book culture. The presentation demonstrated a change in the percentage ratio of network digital book culture resources to all digital data. In the scientific discourse, earlier such analyses were not presented. Reference was made to the characteristics of the internet and its resources for the next decades, starting in the 1960s, when the internet was created. In the years 1960-1990, almost 100% of the resources were related to the book culture. Since the mid-90s, although the network has grown, that growth has occurred largely in isolation from the influence of book culture. Thus, in the middle of the second decade of the 21st century, only about 0.03% (data obtained counting the resources of digitized books available online and the number of websites) of global digital and network data was related to book culture. The results presented are only estimates and approximations. They show tendencies and changes rather than exact calculations.

Introduction/Short Description

The digital world was modeled on book culture. Books are the foundation of all mass media, and therefore of the internet, where book culture has been mapped in the methods of collecting and disseminating information, data, and content. Thus, initially all digital and network technologies and resources were associated with book culture. However, almost half a century after the launch of the digital network, the vast majority of network space has already broken the tradition of the book. This work demonstrates how the relationship between the network resources of book culture and the total digital and network resources has changed since the dawn of the internet to the present day.

Background/Relevance

The network and digital environment was born under the influence of book culture. Therefore, it raised the interesting question of how much of this space is still occupied by book culture (more precisely, digital book culture). This is especially intriguing given that this space is constantly flooded with huge amounts of digital bytes, or simply is constantly growing, and its resources are constantly increasing. Until now, such research has not been carried out.

Research Question/Hypothesis

The aim of this research is to describe how the volume of digital resources related to book culture has changed relative to the volume of all digital and network resources.

Hypotheses:
Is book culture still dominant, or is it starting to be pushed to the periphery?
Is book culture already on the margin of global digital and network resources?

Methods/Methodology

The implementation of the research objective required that I first characterize and describe the structure of internet resources in each decade, starting from the 1960s (that is, from the moment of its creation) through the present day. For this purpose, I used scientific studies and my own experience related to working on the internet. Finally, for the contemporary image of the network, that is, the middle of the second decade of the 21st century, the estimated calculations were made on the basis of digitized and made available books and all websites. The calculations presented here are only estimates and approximations. Thus, I show a rather changing percentage ratio of one resource to another, rather than exact numerical data. The article presents the results of preliminary research.

Results

In the 1960s and 1970s, at the beginning of the functioning and creation of the computer network, and later on the internet, almost 100% of digital space was occupied by digital book culture. All technologies of that time were created in connection with and closely correlated with scientific and library activities. In the 1980s, similarly, approximately 100% of network resources were still related to the book culture. Only from the second half of the 1990s do we see the gradual increase in global digital and network resources that were less and less patterned on the output of book culture. This process lasted (and continues) to this day. In the middle of the second decade of the 21st century, just 0.03% (calculated on the basis of estimated calculations of digitized and made available collections of books and the number of available websites) of digital space showed parallels with digital book culture.

Conclusion/Summary

The Internet was created on the foundation of book culture, which from the very beginning the internet itself and its digital-network resources, were almost 100% associated with book culture. This continued until the mid-1990s when the World Wide Web became popular. Convergence, new information technologies, better hardware parameters, etc. have begun to affect the wider departure from the heritage of book culture. Alongside the exponential growth of network data, digital book culture resources have continued to grow. However, their percentage share in the globally captured base de facto has decreased.

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Books, Publishing & Libraries

Books and writers: A glance at Portuguese Literature

• Introduction

Several people venture to write books of different textual genres, frequently using self-publishing and vanity publishers(1). However, these authors and publishers don't seem to have social recognition and literary prizes may prove it. The sponsoring institutions and prizes money show that the most significant ones regard fiction and narrative (2)(3).

• Purpose

This work intends to provide a brief analysis of the books and writers that were awarded the most important literary prizes in Portugal, in the last years.

• Methodology

In order to do that, a case study is carried out on the *Grande Prémio de Romance e Novela*, considered the greatest literary prize in Portugal, awarded by Portuguese Association of Writers (APE) and General Direction of the Book, Archives and Libraries (DGLAB).

Data were collected and analyzed by categories. The results are presented in two tables.

• Results

Year	Author	Age	Gender
1982	José Cardoso Pires	57	M
1983	Agustina Bessa Luís	61	F
1984	Mário Cláudio	43	M
1985	António Lobo Antunes	43	M
1986	David Mourão Ferreira	59	M
1987	Vergílio Ferreira	71	M
1988	João de Melo	39	M
1989	Paulo Castilho	45	M
1990	Maria Gabriela Llansol	59	F
1991	José Saramago	69	M
1992	Helena Marques	57	F
1993	Vergílio Ferreira	77	M
1994	Mário de Carvalho	50	M
1995	Teolinda Gersão	55	F
1996	Augusto Abelaira	70	M
1997	Rui Nunes	52	M
1998	Fernanda Botelho	72	F
1999	António Lobo Antunes	57	M
2000	Maria Velho da Costa	62	F
2001	Agustina Bessa Luís	79	F
2002	Lídia Jorge	56	F
2003	Mafalda Ivo Cruz	47	F
2004	Vasco Graça Moura	62	M
2005	Francisco José Viegas	43	M
2006	Maria Gabriela Llansol	75	F
2007	Filomena Marona Beja	63	F
2008	Julieta Monginho	50	F
2009	Rui Cardoso Martins	42	M
2010	Gonçalo M. Tavares	40	M
2011	Ana Teresa Pereira	53	F
2012	Alexandra Lucas Coelho	45	F
2013	Ana Margarida de Carvalho	42*	F
2014	Mário Cláudio	73	M
2015	Paulo Varela Gomes	63	M
2016	Ana Margarida Carvalho	45*	F
2017	Hélder Gomes Cancela	50	M

Table 1 – Writers awarded

Year	Genre (BNP)	Title	Publisher
1982	Novels. Full-length stories	*Balada da Praia dos Cães*	O Jornal
1983	Novels. Full-length stories	*Os Meninos de Ouro*	Guimarães Editores
1984	Autobiographic novel	*Amadeo*	Impr. Nacional-Casa da Moeda
1985	Novels. Full-length stories	*Auto dos danados*	Publicações D. Quixote
1986	Novels. Full-length stories	*Um Amor Feliz*	Presença
1987	Novels. Full-length stories	*Até ao fim*	Bertrand Editora
1988	Novels. Full-length stories	*Gente Feliz com Lágrimas*	Publicações Dom Quixote
1989	Novels. Full-length stories	*Fora de Horas*	Contexto
1990	Novels. Full-length stories	*Um Beijo Dado Mais Tarde*	Rolim
1991	Novels. Full-length stories	*O Evangelho segundo Jesus Cristo*	Editorial Caminho
1992	Novels. Full-length stories	*O último cais*	Publicações Dom Quixote
1993	Novels. Full-length stories	*Na tua face*	Bertrand Editora
1994	Novels. Full-length stories	*Um deus passeando pela brisa da tarde*	Editorial Caminho
1995	Novels. Full-length stories	*A Casa da Cabeça de Cavalo*	Publicações Dom Quixote
1996	Novels. Full-length stories	*Outrora agora*	Editorial Presença
1997	Novels. Full-length stories	*Grito*	Relógio D'Água Editores
1998	Novels. Full-length stories	*As contadoras de histórias*	Editorial Presença
1999	Novels. Full-length stories	*Exortação aos crocodilos*	Publicações Dom Quixote
2000	Novels. Full-length stories	*Irene ou o contrato social*	Publicações Dom Quixote
2001	Novels. Full-length stories	*O Princípio da Incerteza I - Jóia de Família*	Guimarães Editores
2002	Novels. Full-length stories	*O Vento assobiando nas Gruas*	Publicações Dom Quixote
2003	Novels. Full-length stories	*Vermelho*	Publicações Dom Quixote
2004	Novels. Full-length stories	*Por detrás da magnólia*	Quetzal
2005	Novels. Full-length stories	*Longe de Manaus*	Edições Asa
2006	Fiction. Prose narrative	*Amigo e amiga: curso de silêncio de 2004*	Assírio & Alvim
2007	History as literary genre. Historical writing.	*A cova do lagarto*	Sudoeste Editora
2008	Novels. Full-length stories	*A terceira mãe*	Campo das Letras
2009	Novels. Full-length stories	*Deixem passar o homem invisível*	Publicações Dom Quixote
2010	Travel novel. Exotic novel	*Uma Viagem à Índia*	Editorial Caminho
2011	Novels. Full-length stories	*O Lago*	Relógio D'Água Editores
2012	Novels. Full-length stories	*E a Noite Roda*	Tinta da China
2013	Novels. Full-length stories	*Que Importa a Fúria do Mar*	Teorema
2014	Novels. Full-length stories	*Retrato de Rapaz*	Dom Quixote
2015	Novels. Full-length stories	*Era Uma Vez em Goa*	Tinta da China
2016	Novels. Full-length stories	*Não se pode morar nos olhos de um gato*	Teorema
2017	Novels. Full-length stories	*As Pessoas do Drama*	Relógio d'Água

Table 2 - Books awarded   Source: APE (3)

• Conclusions

Books awarded are:
- all novels (according to Portuguese National Library classification);
- published in a traditional way, not self-publishing or vanity publishers.

Writers awarded are mainly:
- aged (between 39-79 years / 56 years old media), but the age of the awardees seems to decrease in the last years;
- men (20 times), but women gain more visibility since 2000;
- well-known writers (six of them being awarded two times).

(1) Eco, 2017: https://eco.pt/reportagem/livros-quanto-custa-e-como-se-publica-em-portugal/; (2) Direção Geral do Livro e das Bibliotecas: http://livro.dglab.gov.pt/sites/DGLB/Portugues/premios/Paginas/PremiosLiterarios.aspx; (3) Associação Portuguesa de Escritores: www.apescritores.pt/

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