Intermediation and the Reader

What does intermediation mean for e-lit?

- It describes the interaction between human and computer
- Reader of e-lit notices patterns, makes a choice, and sends the program in a different direction.
- Two cognitive systems at work, one simple (computer) and one complex (human)

Intermediation and the Writer

"When a programmer/writer creates an executable file, the process re-engines the writer’s perceptual and cognitive system as she works with the medium’s possibilities" (56)
Intermediation
Questions Hayles is asking in this chapter:

- How is computational media related to e-lit?
- What are the differences between electronic and print literature?
- How are a user's “embodied interactions brought into play when the textual performance is enacted by an intelligent machine?” (44)
hierarchy
hierarchy
living cellular automata
Intermediation: “a first-level emergent another medium and re-represented new medium, which leads to an emergent by yet another medium, and so forth.”
Intermediation
Intermediation: “a first-level emergent pattern is captured in another medium and re-represented with the primitives of the new medium, which leads to an emergent result captured in turn by yet another medium, and so forth” (45)
Human and machine are “partners in a dynamic heterearchy bound together by intermediating dynamics” (47)
“Humans engineer computers and computers reengineer humans in systems bound together by recursive feedback and feedforward loops, with emergent complexities catalyzed by leaps between different media substrates and levels of complexity” (48)
electronic literature

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A nonprofit organization with a mission to promote and facilitate the writing, publishing and reading of literature designed for electronic media, ELO's site ...

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How the chapter lays out:

pp43-44: Introduction of chapter

pp44-59: Description of "intermediation"  [Rely on this section when you're writing your "summary" section.]

pp59-70: Application of "intermediation" to Michael Joyce's work  [Rely on this section when you're writing your "analysis" section. You will be applying "intermediation" to Moulthrop's Reagan Library just as Hayles uses the concept to analyze Joyce's work.]