

# A Comprehensive Study Guide for Vannevar Bush's "As We May Think"

Vannevar Bush's seminal article, "As We May Think," published in the Atlantic Monthly in 1945, is widely recognized as a foundational text in the field of information science and a visionary blueprint for the future of computing and information retrieval. In this article, Bush envisions a device called the "Memex," a personal information management system that would revolutionize the way we access, organize, and share knowledge. This article has had a profound impact on the development of information technologies, including the creation of hypertext, the World Wide Web, and modern search engines.

**Memex:** The Memex is a hypothetical device that Bush proposes as a solution to the problem of information overload. It is a personal information management system that would allow users to store, organize, and retrieve information in a non-linear, associative manner. The Memex would use microfilm to store large amounts of information, and it would be equipped with a variety of tools for browsing, searching, and annotating documents.

**Hypertext:** Hypertext is a non-linear way of organizing information. It allows users to link related pieces of information together, so that they can be accessed and viewed in a variety of ways. Hypertext is a key feature of the Memex, and it is also the foundation of the World Wide Web.

## Study Guide for Vannevar Bush's As We May Think

by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English



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Lending : Enabled  
Print length : 496 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



**Information Retrieval:** Information retrieval is the process of finding and accessing information. Bush was frustrated by the limitations of traditional information retrieval methods, such as card catalogs and library research. He believed that the Memex would make it possible to find and access information much more quickly and efficiently.

Bush's article had a profound impact on the development of information technologies. His vision of the Memex has inspired the creation of many different types of information management systems, including hypertext systems, search engines, and digital libraries. His ideas about information retrieval have also led to the development of new methods for indexing and organizing information.

In addition to its impact on information technology, Bush's article has also had a significant impact on our understanding of knowledge and learning. Bush believed that the Memex would make it possible for people to learn in a more efficient and personalized way. He argued that the Memex would allow people to access information more quickly and easily, and that it would also help them to connect different pieces of information together in new and meaningful ways.

Bush's article remains relevant today, even though it was written over 70 years ago. The Memex is still a visionary concept, and it continues to inspire researchers and developers in the field of information science. Hypertext is now ubiquitous on the World Wide Web, and information retrieval is a major challenge for businesses and governments around the world. Bush's ideas about knowledge and learning are also still relevant today, as we continue to search for new ways to improve education and empower learners.

1. What is the main argument of Bush's article?
2. What is the Memex, and how does it work?
3. What are the implications of the Memex for information retrieval?
4. How has Bush's article influenced the development of information technologies?
5. What are the ongoing implications of Bush's article for knowledge and learning?

- [As We May Think](#)
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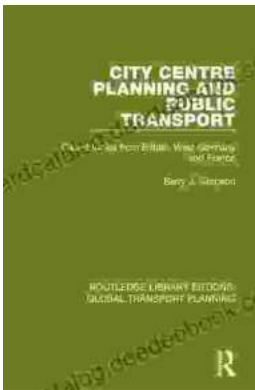
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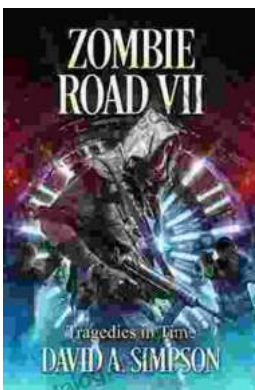


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