

Bernhard Rieder

Universiteit van Amsterdam

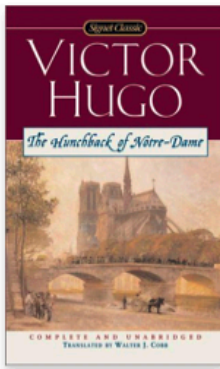
81,498 words

The book as data object

The Unbound Book Conference

20 / 05 / 2011





The Hunchback of Notre-Dame

by Victor Hugo

★★★★☆ 3.78 · rating details · 11,634 ratings · 805 reviews

Set in medieval Paris, Victor Hugo's powerful historical romance *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* has resonated with succeeding generations ever since its publication in 1837. It tells the story of the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda, condemned as a witch by the tormented archdeacon Claude Frollo, who lusts after her. Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer of Notre Dame Cathedral, havin...more

Paperback, 512 pages

Published April 1st 2001 by Signet Classics (first published 1831)

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genres

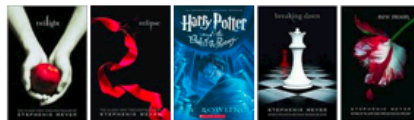
Classics	740 users
Literature	75 users
Cultural > France	70 users
Historical Fiction	59 users
Novels	33 users
Classics > Classic Literature	29 users
Romance	27 users
European Literature > French Literature	27 users
Literature > 19th Century	24 users
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Big Fat Books Worth the Effort

63rd out of 712 books — 2,313 voters

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(showing 1-30 of 19,223)



Melissa Rudder rated it

I have officially been w
now this. I just finishe
was fantastic. The char

Before I proclaim my l
First off: very, very diff
hundred pages, and I'n

[like](#) 31 likes · 13 comm

book data

rating	frequency	%	#
5		26%	3109
4		35%	4138
3		28%	3316
2		7%	826
1		1%	216

all editions: 3.78 average rating, 11634 ratings, 805 reviews, added by 19229 people, 5405 to-reads

this edition: 3.79 average rating, 8846 ratings, 552 reviews, added by 14507 people, 4280 to-reads

Jason Binks rated it



review of another edition

Nov 02, 2009



What happened to the beginning of this unabridged story!? For 300 pages, *The*

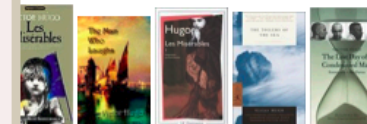
ABOUT VICTOR HUGO

Victor-Marie Hugo was a French poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, visual artist, statesman, human rights campaigner, and perhaps the most influential exponent of the Romantic movement in France.



[More about Victor Hugo...](#)

More Books By Victor Hugo



[More...](#)

[trivia about The Hunchback Of ...](#)

Text Stats

These statistics are computed from the text of another edition of this book. ([learn more](#))

Readability ([learn more](#))

Compared with other books

Fog Index:	10.0	26% are easier		74% are harder
Flesch Index:	67.2	22% are easier		78% are harder
Flesch-Kincaid Index:	7.6	24% are easier		76% are harder

Complexity ([learn more](#))

Complex Words:	10%	27% have fewer		73% have more
Syllables per Word:	1.5	23% have fewer		77% have more
Words per Sentence:	15.1	41% have fewer		59% have more

Number of

Characters:	466,299	57% have fewer		43% have more
Words:	81,498	61% have fewer		39% have more
Sentences:	5,413	68% have fewer		32% have more

Fun stats

Words per Dollar:	13,697
Words per Ounce:	9,611

The book in the age of the database...

The last 15 years have seen the emergence of digital book collections holding very large numbers of titles.

Two aspects of interest:

- 1) What kind of arrangement for discovering and reading?
- 2) What is the “computational potential” of millions of books?

“Is a digital library a machine or an institution?” (Agre, 2003)

...the full-text, composite database

Historically, many institutions contribute to structuring the universe of books: family, school, library, church, mass media, bookstores, market forces, physical and formal affordances, etc.

=> structures of opportunity and embedded practices

Contemporary systems introduce new logistics:

- 1) Exploring full-text and metadata
- 2) Connecting by means of data
- 3) Capturing and inferring from user practices

advent of printing age of scribes Aldus Manutius Almagest ancient astronomers authors became Bible
Cambridge Catholic century Christopher Plantin church cited classical Commonwealth of Learning Copernican
Copernicus copies developments diverse duplicated early modern early printed editions effects elites encouraged
English engraving Europe fifteenth Folger Shakespeare Library Frances Yates Galileo given Greek
Gutenberg hand-copied historians humanists Ibid images Index intellectual issued Italian Italy John Kepler kind permission Latin
learned less letters literary literature London Luther manuscript maps master printers medieval observations output Peter
Schoeffer polyglot print culture printed books problems produced Protestant published quattrocento readers reading
Reformation religious Renaissance Reproduced by kind revival revolution Robert Estienne scholars scientific scribal
culture script to print scriptoria Scripture seems shift from script significant sixteenth sixteenth-century spread of
printing suggest texts tion tradition translation treatises Tycho Tycho Brahe vernacular Western word writing York

1) Full text content

Inside This Book [\(learn more\)](#)

Browse and search another edition of this book.

First Sentence:

IN THE LATE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, the reproduction of written materials began to move from the copyist's desk to the printer's workshop. [Read the first page](#)

Key Phrases - Statistically Improbable Phrases (SIPs): [\(learn more\)](#)

[scientific publication programs](#), [trilingual studies](#), [shift from script](#), [typographical fixity](#), [public manuscript](#), [scribal culture](#), [preservative powers](#), [communications shift](#), [map publishers](#), [early printers](#), [pictorial statements](#), [linguistic frontiers](#)

Key Phrases - Capitalized Phrases (CAPs): [\(learn more\)](#)

[Folger Shakespeare Library](#), [Royal Society](#), [Middle Ages](#), [Commonwealth of Learning](#), [Christopher Plantin](#), [Italian Renaissance](#), [Western Christendom](#), [Aldus Manutius](#), [Department of Special Collections](#), [Francis Bacon](#), [Stanford University Libraries](#), [Peter Schoeffer](#), [Tycho Brahe](#), [Western Europe](#), [Library of Congress](#), [Robert Estienne](#), [Frances Yates](#), [Nuremberg Chronicle](#), [Protestant Revolt](#), [Sir Thomas Browne](#), [Alexandrian Library](#), [Antwerp Polyglot](#), [Benjamin Franklin](#), [Erhard Reuwich](#), [Grub Street](#)

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Search Inside This Book:



2) Connections

From Google Scholar

[Policies for Sustainable Consumption](#)

Tim Jackson, Laurie Michaelis

[People with history: An update on historical archaeology in the ...](#)

Barbara J Little - 1994 - Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory

[Reflective Adaptation of a Technology Artifact: A Case Study of ...](#)

Xiaodong Lin - 2001 - Cognition and Instruction

[Growth and Interaction in the World Economy](#)

Angus Maddison

[All Scholar search results »](#)

Popular passages

[Page 211](#) - Thus there are two Books from whence I collect my Divinity; besides that written one of GOD, another of His servant Nature, that universal and publick Manuscript, that lies expans'd unto the Eyes of all : those that never saw Him in the one, have 'discovered Him in the other.

[Appears in 389 books from 1822-2008](#)

[Page 142](#) - In the Middle Ages both sides of human consciousness — that which was turned within as that which was turned without — lay dreaming or half awake beneath a common veil. The veil was woven of faith, illusion, and childish prepossession, through which the world and history were seen clad in strange hues. Man was conscious of himself only as member of a race, people, party, family, or corporation — only through some general category.

[Appears in 114 books from 1887-2007](#)

[Page 211](#) - ... station did the Children of Israel; the ordinary effects of nature wrought more admiration in them than in the other all his miracles. Surely the heathens knew better how to join and read these mystical letters than we Christians, who cast a more careless eye on these common hieroglyphicks, and disdain to suck divinity from the flowers of nature.

[Appears in 153 books from 1815-2006](#)

[Page 167](#) - There be natural causes also to further it; for the art of printing will so spread knowledge, that the common people, knowing their own rights and liberties, will not be governed by way of oppression ; and so, by little and little, all kingdoms will be like Macaria.

[Appears in 52 books from 1809-2006](#)

Citations [\(learn more\)](#)

This book cites 45 books:

[Mechanick Exercises](#) by Joseph Moxon on [page 103](#), and [page 241](#)

[The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man](#) by Marshall McLuhan in [Back Matter](#)

[Science and the Renaissance](#) by William Persehouse Delisle Wightman in [Back Matter](#)

[Orality and Literacy \(New Accents\)](#) by Walter J. Ong in [Back Matter](#)

[Literacy and Social Development in the West: A Reader \(Cambridge Studies in Oral and Literate Culture\)](#) by Harvey J. Graff in [Back Matter](#)

[See all 45 books this book cites](#)

100 books cite this book:

[The Empire of Mind: Digital Piracy and the Anti-Capitalist Movement \(Digital Futures\)](#) by Michael Strangelove on [page 111](#), [Back Matter \(1\)](#), and [Back Matter \(2\)](#)

[Netizens: On the History and Impact of Usenet and the Internet \(Perspectives\)](#) by Michael Hauben on [page 312](#), [page 323](#), and [Back Matter](#)

[Illusive Shadows: Justice, Media, and Socially Significant American Trials](#) by Lloyd E. Chiasson on [page 20](#), and [Back Matter](#)

[Leonardo to the Internet: Technology and Culture from the Renaissance to the Present \(Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology\)](#) by Professor Thomas J. Misa in [Back Matter \(1\)](#), and [Back Matter \(2\)](#)

[Giving Offense: Essays on Censorship](#) by J. M. Coetzee in [Back Matter \(1\)](#), and [Back Matter \(2\)](#)

[See all 100 books citing this book](#)

3) User gestures and practices

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought



The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing,... by Lucien Febvre
\$16.30

The Book in the Renaissance by Andrew Pettegree
★★★★☆ (5)
\$26.40

Scribes and Illuminators (Medieval Craftsmen) by Christopher deHamel
★★★★☆ (2)
\$22.90

Library: An Unquiet History by Matthew Battles
★★★★☆ (11)
\$10.17

A Short History of the Printed Word by Warren Chappell
★★★★☆ (8)

What people are saying - [Write a review](#)

Review: The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe

User Review ★★☆☆☆ - April - Goodreads

I never would have finished (or started) this book if it weren't for a class. It would have been much better if it were half as long and half as redundant. Interesting ideas buried in the blah-blah of academic writing. [Read full review](#)

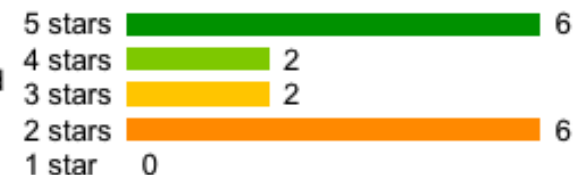
Review: The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe

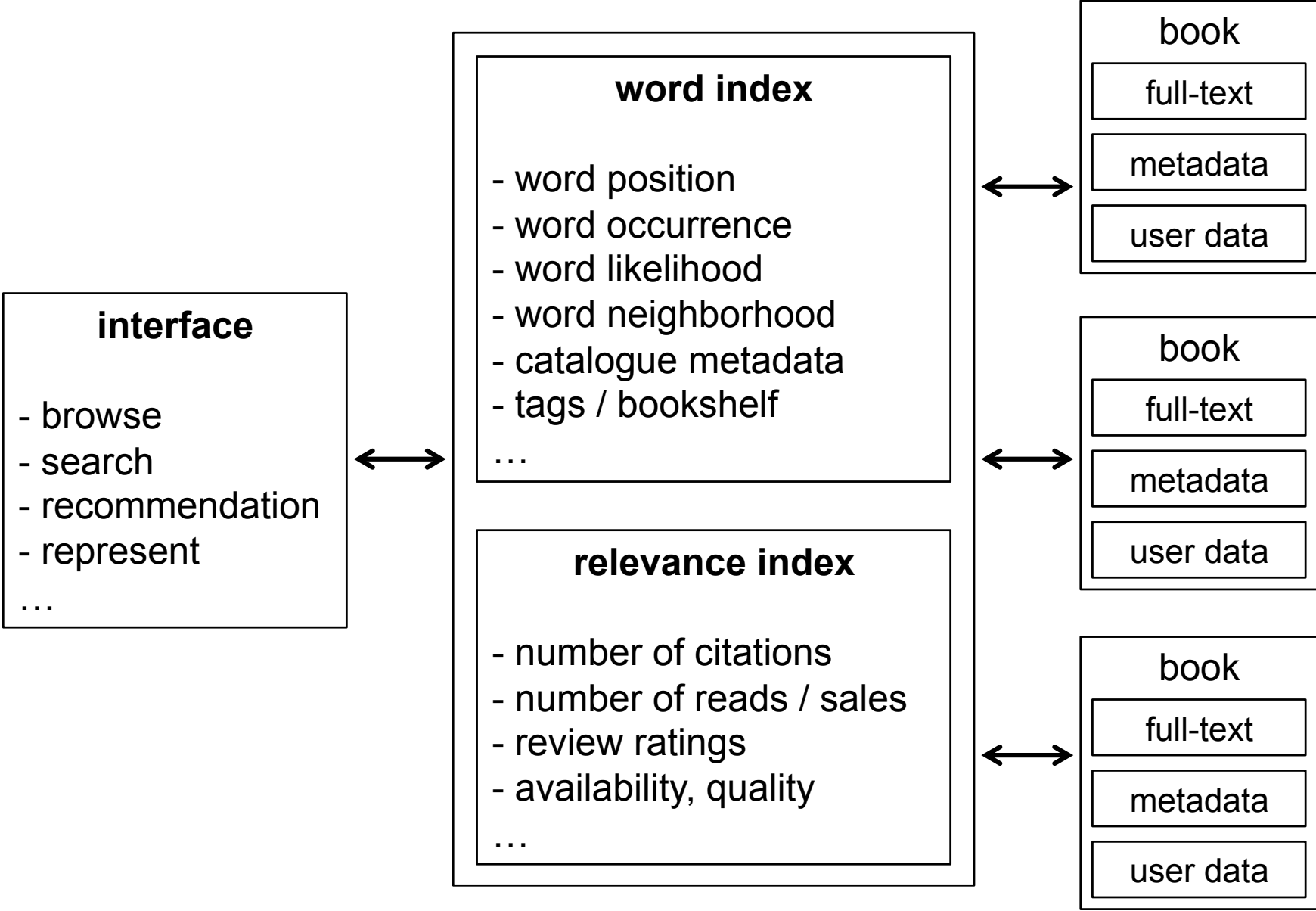
User Review ★★☆☆☆ - Emily K - Goodreads

Eisenstein is, first and foremost, a horrible writer. The information was interesting but she tries so hard to remain separate from book history that it is hard to take this book seriously. Unfortunately I was not impressed. [Read full review](#)

[All 16 reviews »](#)

User ratings





Unbinding and rebinding the book

Data analysis transforms the book into “information” and rebuilds it as interactive, social, and “semantic” interface.

1) Opportunity for navigation and discovery

- What do I see?
- What is the probability to get to a certain book?

2) Embedded reading

- Technologically mediated and automated forms of “transtextuality” (Genette, 1982, 1987)

What kind of machine/institution?

The book is part of a quite different machine than library, school, etc.

These information systems are agents of:

- 1) contextualization
- 2) decontextualization

The inner workings of the systems have institutional effects.

Towards what kind of book institution?

What and how we read was always a complicated and contested affair.

“Incite, suggest, derail, make easy or difficult, enlarge or limit, render more or less probable... These are the categories of power.” (Deleuze, 1986)

Three dimensions of change:

- Hierarchies and incentives
- Reading practices
- Organizational forms and levers

Why build such systems?

“giving customers more of what they want - low prices, vast selection, and convenience” (Amazon)

“organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful” (Google)

- 1) Sell books and/or advertisement
- 2) Create a “one-stop” counter
- 3) Profit from economies of scale & network effects

=> but also: computational potential

What about the “computational potential” (J.-C. Guédon)

Google seeks to scan all the books ever published until the end of the decade, creating a gigantic pool of (potential) knowledge.

Data is protected by technical and legal means.

- 1) Automatic translation
- 2) Knowledge engineering and profile data
- 3) “Culturomics”
- ...

Computational potential 2

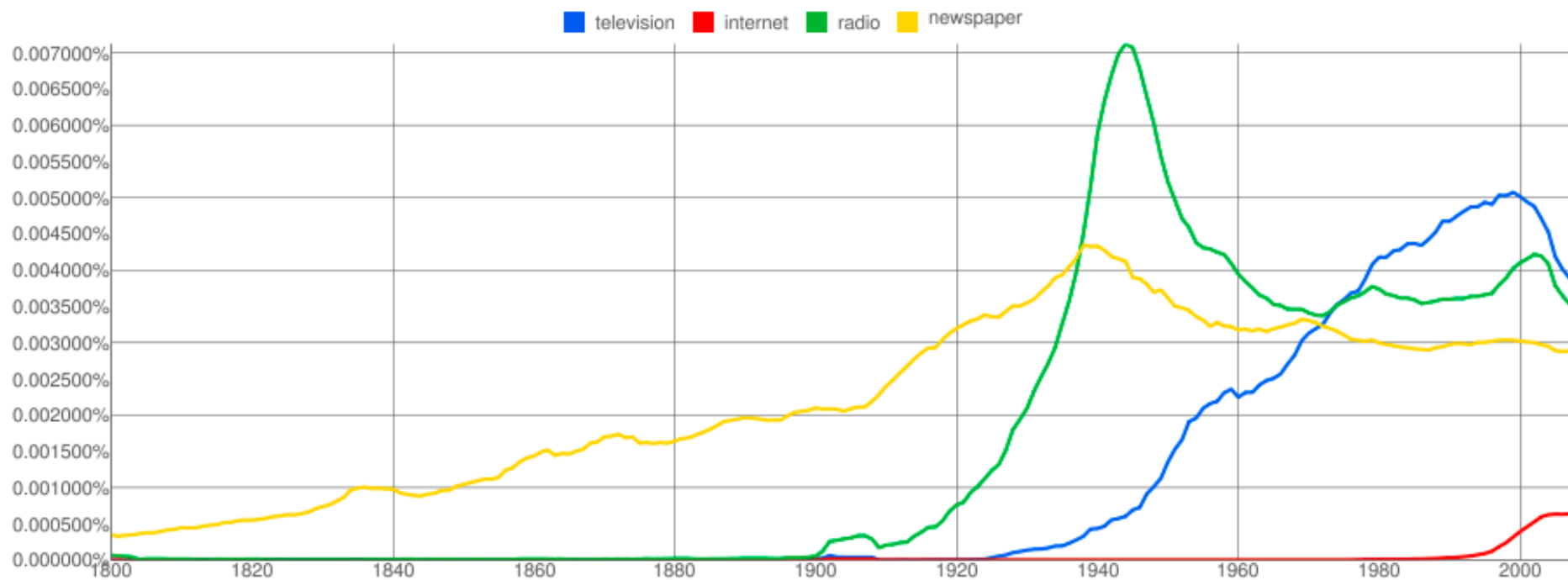
Example: “culturomics”

Indexing n-grams (1 to 5 grams) from a very large number of books.

“We constructed a corpus of digitized texts containing about 4% of all books ever printed. Analysis of this corpus enables us to investigate cultural trends quantitatively. [...] We show how this approach can provide insights about fields as diverse as lexicography, the evolution of grammar, collective memory, the adoption of technology, the pursuit of fame, censorship, and historical epidemiology. Culturomics extends the boundaries of rigorous quantitative inquiry to a wide array of new phenomena spanning the social sciences and the humanities.” (Michel et al., 2011)

Google labs Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these **case-sensitive** comma-separated phrases:
between and from the corpus with smoothing of



Conclusions

Even without changing form, the book is caught up in large scale databases.

There are consequences for reading and finding books, for engaging them, for sharing, discussing, etc.

What kind of debate do we need?

Thank you.

rieder@uva.nl

<http://thepoliticsofsystems.net>