Chapter one

The inspiration behind Digital Stories

Merchants of Light

While John Tradescant had been securing the most alluring and intriguing treasures from cooperative ships in the British fleet, lawyer and philosopher Francis Bacon developed a vision of a world where evidence and knowledge were collected through more ordered voyages of exploration.
Cats in human dress playing a variety of games, woodcut by Kunimasa IV, 1870s
The snow burst through the trees with no warning but a last-second whoosh of sound, a two-story wall of white and Chris Rudolph’s piercing cry: “Avalanche! Elyse!”
Cell phones, laptops, Facebook, Skype, chat-rooms: all allow the NSA to build what it calls 'a pattern of life', a detailed profile of a target and anyone associated with them.

And the number of people caught up in this dragnet can be huge.

You don't need to be talking to a terror suspect to have your communications data analysed by the NSA. The agency is allowed to travel "three hops" from its targets -- who could be people who talk to people who talk to people who talk to you. Facebook, where the typical user has 350 friends, shows how three degrees of separation gets you to a network bigger than the population of Colorado. How many people are three "hops" from you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of friends</th>
<th>1st degree: friends</th>
<th>2nd degree: friends of friends</th>
<th>3rd degree: friends of friends of friends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>8,170</td>
<td>1,334,978</td>
<td>or more than the population of Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or more than all U.S. presidents</td>
<td>or more than the capacity of the Metropolitan Opera House</td>
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Diverging paths

In 1916 Ireland was part of the United Kingdom and governed from London. But in April of that year, a small group of Irish Republicans decided to take matters into their own hands and proclaim an independent Irish Republic, leading to the Easter Rising, an event that would cause neighbour to fight neighbour.
Chapter two
How we developed our content and finally started to built something

The curious gardener

In 1634, anyone who spent a day at John Tradescant’s house and garden in south Lambeth could discover more curiosities than a man might see in a lifetime of travel. Tradescant’s, a must-see attraction for half a century, was Britain’s first museum.
The position of a hand for writing. *Physiologie des mouvements démontrée à l'aide de l'experimentation électrique et de l'observation clinique : et applicable à l'étude des paralysies et des déformations*, Duchenne, 1867.
Each Digital Story had:

6 chapters
6 ‘Find Out More’ library layers w digitised books and ephemera
1 animation
Several to-camera films
Several image galleries
A quiz or interactive

A pile of carved stone for the new Wellcome building, 1931
Chapter three
What we learnt and what audiences have told us about Digital Stories

Hypnotism has now been accepted by medical science. ‘Mind over matter’ is real – but what are its limits and its dangers? Can it be exploited for evil ends?
MINDCRAFT

A century of madness, murder and mental healing

Start your journey
THE COLLECTORS

Searchers, secrets and the power of curiosity

Start your journey

1. THE CURIOUS GARDENER
2. MERCHANTS OF LIGHT
3. THE DEATH COLLECTOR
4. THE UNEASING SEEKER
5. THE 'OBSCENE' DOCTOR
6. THE IGNORANT BRIDE
The Museum, and its educational focus, initially found favour with publications like the *Lancet* and *Medical
HURROMUNDOO SAHA, AGED 27, WEIGHT OF TUMOUR 103 lbs, CIRCUMFERENCE, 7 ft. 2 in. ROUND THE NECK.

The operation was performed by Dr. Esdaile in 6½ minutes.
Wound man, Anathomia, Claudius Pseudo-Galen, Mid 15th Century
OF LAUGHTER AND WEEPING.
jane audas

- this is what I do
- digital work
- writing: magazines
- writing: other
- curating and talking
- what I like
- blog
- twitter
- flickr
- instagram

Contact