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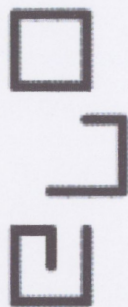
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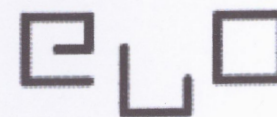
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literature

## THE ELECTRONIC LITERATURE ORGANIZATION

*Whether or not books and other traditional literary technologies survive, the dominant medium in the foreseeable future will be electronic, digital, with the Internet the probable universal provider. I anticipate that literary artists will gravitate toward this powerful medium, but if they do not, if literature does not in fact find a place there, then the vast majority of the human race will simply do without it, and thus, whether the new generations know it or not, they (all of us) will be greatly impoverished.*

**-Robert Coover**

The Electronic Literature Organization was established in 1999 to promote and facilitate the writing, publishing, and reading of electronic literature. Electronic Literature Organization programs support new forms of literature which utilize the capabilities of emerging technologies to advance literature for current and future generations of readers.

While other countries—Austria, Australia, France and the United Kingdom—have embraced electronic literature by supporting and by sponsoring governmental and non-profit organizations in the development of new electronic art forms, we have not yet seen that same level of commitment here in the United States, the center of the Internet economy. One of the primary objectives of the Electronic Literature Organization is to fill that cultural gap and to further the advancement of electronic literature internationally.

The Electronic Literature Organization is governed by a Board of Directors including leaders from the worlds of print literature, electronic literature, Internet business, technology, and literary nonprofit management. Additionally, ELO is advised by an Internet Industry Advisory Board which includes Chief Executive Officers from several leading Internet companies, and a Board of Literary Advisors which includes leading writers, critics, and publishers.

Since its formation, Electronic Literature Organization has taken great strides in creating programs designed to assist writers and publishers in bringing their literary works to a wider, global readership but also providing them the infrastructure necessary to reach one another.

## Electronic Literature Organization Programs

### Web Resource Center

ELO's website is home to a community of writers, publishers, and readers actively interested in electronic literature. The departments of the site respond to particular needs for several constituent groups: the site hosts an Events Calendar to enable authors and readers to find venues for live interaction readings and coverage of important events, a Newscan of important news items to track changes, opportunities, and other developments in the field, a Community Hub where writers and readers can interact with one another, a Publishing resource with links to the most relevant electronic publishing organizations, a TechCenter to examine and review tools and methods for creating and distributing electronic literature to a wider readership, and a Showcase of the most interesting work in the field.

### Electronic Literature Directory

The ELO Directory will be a comprehensive directory of works in the electronic literature field—a virtual crossroads of readers, writers, and publishers. Authors will be able to enter their own information and update it remotely. The Directory will be searchable by a wide variety of criteria—author, date, media, and genre. Publishers can find new works on the ELO Directory and the publisher interface will enable publishers to update information on titles of published works. In addition, reader reviews will be an integral part of the ELO Directory, encouraging readers to report their reactions to a particular work to other readers.

### Connections Program

To bridge the gap between electronic and print literature, ELO's Connections Program has developed two partnerships:

#### (1) Electronic Literature in Public Libraries

In partnership with the American Library Association, ELO will connect writers and libraries interested in hosting readings and/or presentations of electronic literature. ELO staff will facilitate the initial contact between writers and libraries, and help to offer the reading public local encounters with electronic literature.

#### (2) Transformations Project

In partnership with the Academy of American Poets, ELO has developed a project to bring established print writers together with electronic authors. Print writers will contribute existing works and will collaborate with a partner electronic writer to enhance their works to utilize some of the unique capabilities of electronic presentation, thus transforming the works for electronic media. ELO will pay each author a small honorarium, publicize the projects, and host the completed projects on ELO's website.

## Readings/Outreach Events

To fulfill its mission of promoting electronic literature, ELO will host several readings/cultivation events throughout the country. Events will feature interactive readings and will provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about ELO's mission, programs, and ways in which to become involved with ELO.

### International Day of Readings

ELO's International Day of Readings will serve to highlight work being done in electronic literature at a variety of locations throughout the United States (Chicago, New York, Baltimore, Denver, San Francisco) and around the world (Norway, UK, Australia). Working with universities and institutions, ELO will organize a day of electronic literature readings to help fortify a global community of readers and writers. The networked events will encourage cross-continental interaction and will help to focus media attention on electronic literature.

### Electronic Literature Prizes

ELO Prizes will showcase and reward innovative projects in electronic literature. The ELO Board of Literary Advisors will judge the competition. ELO plans to award four major prizes in the inaugural competition to be held in 2001—one in Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Creative Nonfiction. The winners will be acknowledged at a prestigious Awards Gala in New York City and will be webcast globally.

### New Publishing Models Symposium

ELO's New Publishing Models Symposium will be held in New York in Spring 2001 and will bring together writers, publishers, technologists, economists, internet content providers and others in the field to address some of the issues facing electronic literature especially as they relate to creating new publishing models. The Symposium will facilitate a concentrated discussion on how publishers and writers can use electronic publishing models to advance literature in the digital age.

## Become an ELO Member and Advance Literature for Current and Future Generations.

With the support of individuals like you, who believe that future generations should have access to literature in an electronic media of their world and time, the Electronic Literature Organization will be able to successfully launch all the programs as outlined in this brochure. Literature—the least funded of all the major forms—deserves and needs your support. By becoming a member in the Electronic Literature Organization, you will reap many tangible benefits, but your greatest reward will come from knowing that you have advanced electronic literature through your support of a growing international community of writers and readers.