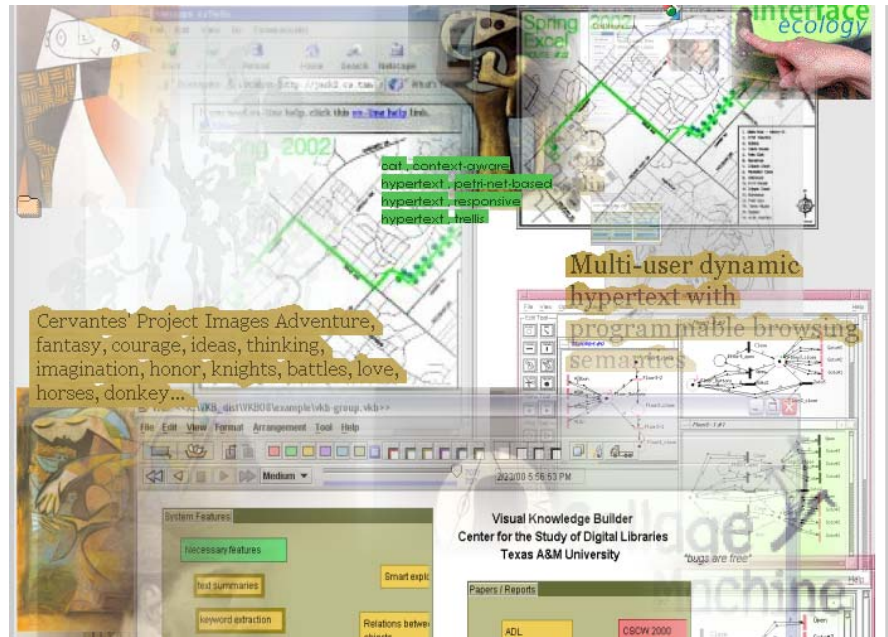


## combinFormation: Generative Visual Visceral Spatial Hypertext Collections

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Spatial hypertext systems have typically focused on giving users access to visual attributes and spatial layouts of information elements, in order to support information analysis activities [3]. One problem is that in order to spatially arrange information elements, it is necessary first to collect them. The responsibility for collecting the relevant information elements, themselves, has remained with the users. This has tended to result in collections of information elements that are primarily textual, even in programs that enable the use of images [2, 3]. The situation with the favorites mechanisms of traditional web browsers is similar. Here, while the spatial mechanisms are impoverished, the act of collecting, itself, is facilitated. However, the information elements are limited to very short text elements, accompanied by links. The inherent visceral properties of visual media are not fully engaged by either of these kinds of collections.



combinFormation is a generative information space that collects

information elements automatically, based on an evolving model of the user's interests. The processes of browsing, collecting, and authoring are integrated. The interactive interface affords the expression of interest, as well as the design of visual attributes, and spatial organization. The model of user interests evolves through these explicit on-going interest expressions. The program retrieves images and text from the web, based on this model. This paradigm of expression-directed information composition makes it easy to collect striking visual elements, in a spatial hypertext context. The program's automatic visual composition agent uses procedural visual processing, such as alpha blending, saturation and blur transforms, and text stroking, as well as relationship-based coloring, to generate visual relationships between the elements. This facilitates the creation of recombinant information effects, in which new meanings emerge through viscerally provocative combinations of found and authored elements [1].

### References

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