Free Your Object

And let that subject follow

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Specificity

spec•i•fic•i•ty

(spes′ə•fis′ə•tē) – *n.* 1 The fact, condition, or quality of being specific. 2 The quality of being specific to a particular organism.

kindle
DON'T
PANIC
The Language of New Media
Lev Manovich

What should an academic thesis look like?

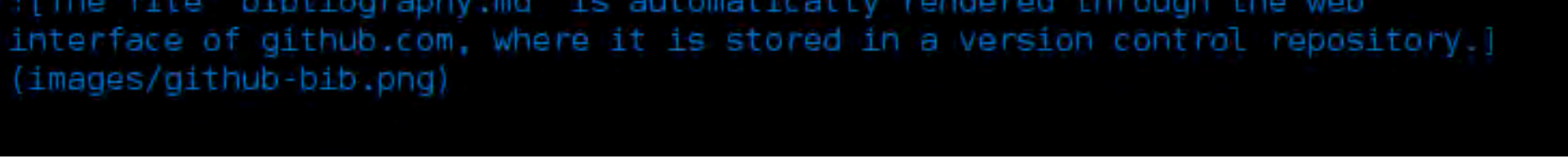
```
<HTML>
    <HEAD>
        <TITLE>Writing a thesis comfortably?</TITLE>
    </HEAD>
        <!-- not so much... --!>
</HTML>
```

Constrained by liberty

An unfortunate constraint is the inability to take advantage of elements of the TeX landscape that are reknowned for making life easier. The chief among these is BibTeX, which allows for a bibliography to be dynamically generated and citations to be inserted according to a variety of formats (that one can change with a single line of text, if desired). By abstracting myself from TeX by using Markdown as the "pre-format," I've lost the opportunity to easily manage bibliographic data and instead must input it by hand. That said, the MLA format is not currently available in BibTeX meaning that--even if I could use this software--the output would be necessarily shaped by the constraints of the tools.

This tendency to be forced to simplify (or perhaps even "weaken") the document as a whole was raised by Femke Snelting during a personal interview I conducted with her and fellow Open Source Publisher Pierre Huyghebaert (Snelting and Huyghebaert 2010). Snelting is intensely interested by the ways that our tools shape what we make, and this is a clear example of this dynamic.

Markdown as a Version of Preindividuality



Acknowledgments 5

Introduction 6
Screens 8
Screens as material, screens as process 9
From Screens to Text 11
Recognizing the Ontogenesis in Generativity 12
Print is static, code is process 14
Remote Controls 14
Attributes of Process 15
Why free software? 16
Caveats . . . . . Go to page 16 18

1 Substrates of Digital Process 19
1.1 Alan Kay and a 'Metamedium' Vision for Personal Computing 19
1.2 Operating Systems as the Substrates of Contemporary Design 22
1.2.1 The evolving nature of operating systems 23
1.2.2 Unix and Code Drift 24
1.2.3 Mac OS X: Process Hybridity in Action 25

2 Design Beyond the Proprietary 30
2.1 Traditional Design Interfaces in FLoSS 32
2.2 Software Time 32

3 Screenic Text 34

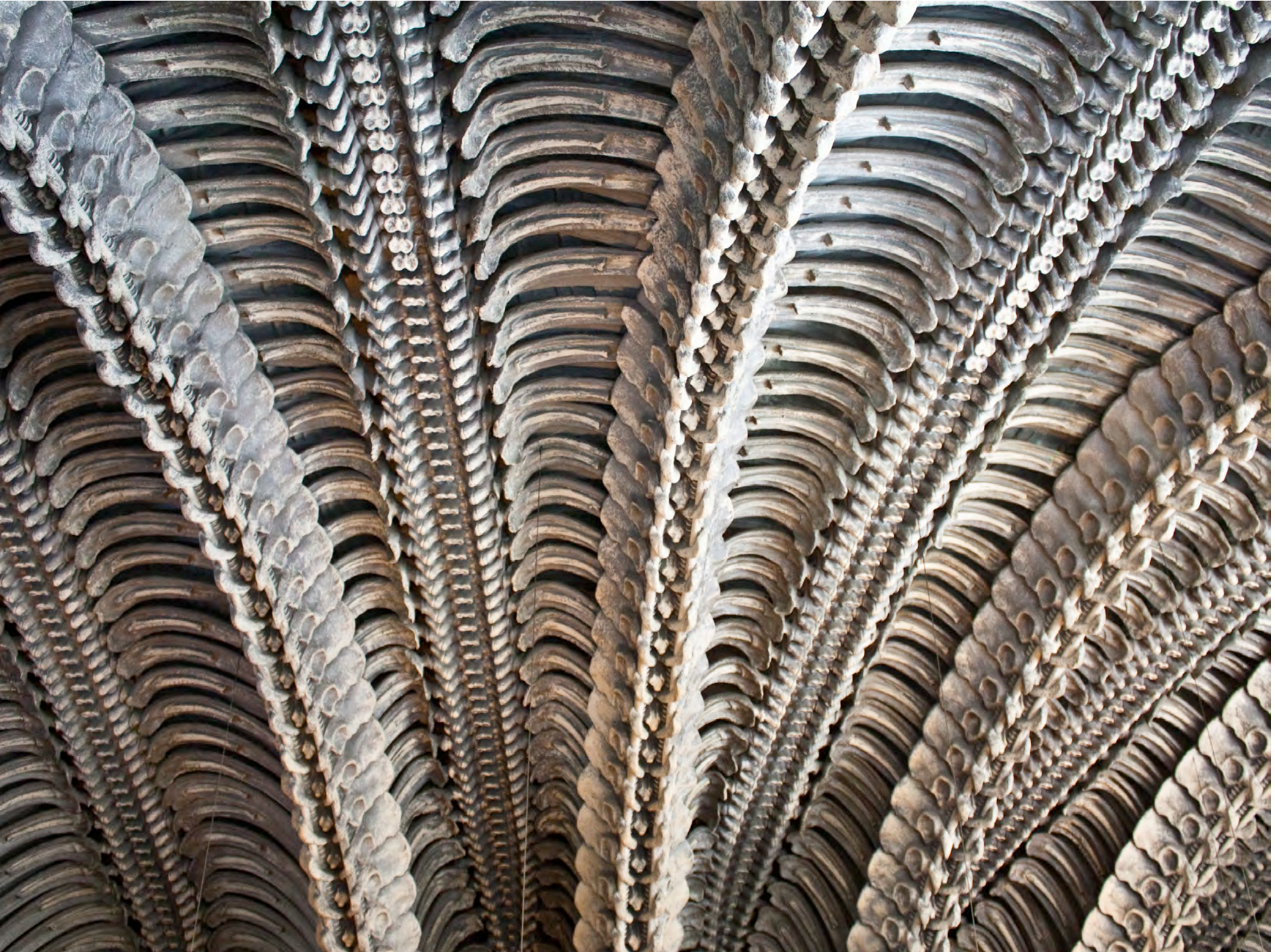
Can it all be so simple?

```
    elsif /^\(\%grrrquote\)$/.match(line) and in_code == false
        html.puts '<blockquote>'
        context.puts '\startlongquote'
    elsif /^\/\(\%grrrquote\)$/.match(line) and in_code == false
        html.puts '</blockquote>'
        context.puts '\stoplongquote'
    # Chapter handling (may need to add something to remove the first </div> in a file)
    elsif m = /^\\chapter\{(.+)\}$/.match(line) and in_code == false
#       html.puts "</div><div class='chapter'>\n# #{m[1]} #"
        html.puts "# #{m[1]} #"
        if first_chapter == true
            context.puts '\stopfrontmatter'
            context.puts line
            first_chapter = false
        else
            context.puts line
        end
    elsif m = /^\\section\{(.+)\}$/.match(line) and in_code == false
        html.puts "## #{m[1]} ##"
        context.puts line
    elsif m = /^\\subsection\{(.+)\}$/.match(line) and in_code == false
        html.puts "### #{m[1]} ###"
        context.puts line
    # Count exclamation mark(up)s
    elsif m = /\(\!+(.+)\!\)/.match(line)
        exclaims << [$., m[1]] # $. is a special constant for the current line
        html.puts line
        context.puts line
```

Metastability

By transduction we mean an operation--physical, biological, mental, social--by which an activity propagates itself from one element to the next, within a given domain, and founds this propagation on a structuration of the domain that is realized from place to place: each area of the constituted structure serves as the principle and the model for the next area, as a primer for its constitution, to the extent that the modification expands progresively at the same time as the structuring operation. (Simondon 2009: 11).

Calcification



Reciprocity

Your object's skeleton

- What tools to construct?
- What tools to experience?
- But also... the skeletons of all those tools

- This includes licensing!