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Phil Henshaw
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Dear Phil,

Thanks for your letter and comments. I confine my internetting to GOOGLing at the public library, so I am not an emailer. I have not had any good reason for email heretofore but perhaps someday. Meanwhile, I'm glad you are not an email snob and are willing to exchange some ideas the old fashioned way.

I do happen to know the answer to one of your questions: the Genealogy itself (or something like it) is the "data base" in which the visual map is complemented throughout by other dimensions of data. Every node in the chart has properties such as subject matter and theme as well as an associated article while every connector has properties such as from-to and theme. The content of the properties associated with nodes and connectors is presently very incomplete, but you can see in the sample listings on the enclosed page that a lot of data can be organized, searched, and presented already. A genealogy such as this is a relative invariant because history has already been booked, albeit with plenty of prejudices. Nonetheless, Newton was prior to Einstein, Chaucer was prior to Shakespeare, etc., and "they can't take that away from me." For various reasons, the Genealogy includes much more than conventional "systems stuff" and is ready to absorb highlights of all documented human discourse. This is no more megalomanic than any competent encyclopedia, and it is easier to fill out than an alphabetical sequence of articles because the clearly visible "fan in" and "fan out" of nodes provides a way to check for thoroughness and consistency. The topology of the interlaced connections looks frightening and incomprehensible to the naked eye, but with the computer as a prosthesis one can query the data categorically as well as search for and examine individual nodes and connectors. When the properties associated with nodes and connectors are more completely filled in it will become possible to have the chart be displayed with only those nodes and connectors highlighted which meet certain qualifications, e.g., those which follow themes derived from the philosophy of Heraclitus. The Genealogy today awaits only a substantial amount of smart data entry and some clever programming in Visual Basic (for Visio) to be a potent data collection and research instrument. The essay pages which I sent you previously noted some of what I have learned from this project already.

I am sufficiently out of touch with the ISSS that I don't know how to reach anyone nowadays, but Len Troncale, who formerly had the most knowledge about the organization, may still be a biology professor at Cal State in Pasadena, hence traceable through there. I wish I knew more and how to make another go at systemological education.

w/ Re-Framing - - - in World Futures V46 P22-45 Best regards,
1996 Gordon & Breach Don