

On Saving a Dying Planet

Mother Earth's health is clearly declining. The changes in her climate, the disastrous degradation of many of her ecosystems, and the rapid depletion of her natural resources portend a bleak future for her inhabitants – particularly for one of her major species, *Homo sapiens*. Without substantial reformation in the collective behavior of the members of this species, their living conditions are likely to deteriorate to a point where their lives become futile and unfulfilling.

An underlying cause of *Homo sapiens*' ruinous behavior is the lack of knowledge that prevails in both the advanced nations and the less-developed countries. In the less-developed countries illiteracy is widespread, especially among the adult females (see the addendum to "How We Handicap Readers" at www.mudoc.com/handicap.htm). Even though literacy levels are higher in the advanced nations, their levels of knowledge are still too low for them to develop healthy and self-sustaining societies.

If the deterioration in Mother Earth's health is to be reversed, much higher levels of literacy and knowledgeability must be attained in all nations. A software invention that is now under development will help make such achievements possible. That invention is *interactive movable type*. This new kind of movable type will bring about the following improvements in the delivery and consumption of text and other useful information:

1. It will enable nonreaders to immediately start reading text in their native languages.
2. It will enable most readers, as they gain experience, to achieve higher and higher levels of speed and comprehension – to levels that are presently impossible.
3. It will (when used with telereaders) enable even the poorest nations to move rapidly to full literacy at costs they can afford.
4. It will enable most children to teach themselves to read before starting school.
5. It will (through the support of mudoc reference substructures) enable each reader to function as an expert in the language used in the text they are reading.
6. It will (through the support of dual-language reference substructures) facilitate the reading of text in second languages – and in learning to read and speak languages other than the reader's primary language.

To see how such changes will be brought about, peruse the Web pages at www.mudoc.com. If you like what you see and would like to participate in the effort, take a look at the last link on our home page, "Call for Collaborators, Contributors, and Co-conspirators" (at <http://mudoc.com/collab.pdf>). Then consider helping us develop and implement the tools of the mudoc technology.

Wayne Reed Porter

P. S. A related statement can be seen at <http://www.mudoc.com/crwr/crwrscr8.htm>. It is "Life in a World of Superreaders," the final chapter in the script for *The Coming Revolution in Writing and Reading*, the interactive presentation we are preparing for the mudoc.com website.