An Information Design Timeline

Historical overview

The Chinese philosopher Confucius advised that you should ‘study the past, if you would divine the future’. This timeline, although not exhaustive or definitive, attempts to place key historical events into an information design lineage. The placing of past achievements into a tradition helps further define information design as a distinct activity with particular aims. A primary motive for information design is to promote a greater understanding for the subject it is conveying. Each entry is an exemplary model in the development and documentation of human knowledge and provides an inspiration for those wishing to follow in their path.

20000BC
Cave painting is prevalent in Eurasia. The earliest forms of this method of communicating information can be traced back to 30000BC.

6200BC
A wall painting in Turkey depicting streets, dwellings and local physical features is thought to be an early form of the map.

3100BC
Cuneiforms appear representing words and establish a prototype language-based writing system.

3000BC
Egyptian hieroglyphics inscribed on slate are to be found in tombs. The papyrus roll and clay tablet become the common substrates for writing.

2800BC
The Egyptians introduce a lunar calendar of 365 days.

2500BC
Ink is used in Egypt and China.

1800BC
A rudimentary abacus is used by the Babylonians.

1300BC
An early form of the book appears in China made of wood and bamboo strips bound with cord.

1300BC
The Turin papyrus documents Egyptian land using geometry.

1000BC
Early Phoenician inscriptions. The Phoenician alphabet is the first system of representing sound with marks.

750BC
Greek writing, based on the Phoenician system, appears.

710BC
The Egyptians invent the sundial as a method of telling the time.

700BC
The earliest forms of the Latin alphabet appear.

660BC
First known library established by King Ashurbanipal in Nineveh

600BC
A map of Babylon is recorded on clay tablets.

610BC
Anaximander, an ancient Greek, is said to have designed a map of the world.

550BC
Left to right handwriting convention is established.

500BC
Early mathematical notation appears.

360BC
Aristotle establishes the Lyceum as a school of philosophical debate.

350BC
The Greek Ionic alphabet of 24 letters is in use.

345BC
First known encyclopaedia appears. Although Aristotle is referred to as the ‘father of encyclopedias’, Greek philosopher Speusippus is credited with compiling the first encyclopedia.

280BC
Ptolemy I creates a Museum in Alexandria. Its librarian Zenodotus produces the first critical edition of Homer.

250BC
Eratosthenes made precise maps of the world using a grid to locate places.

200BC
Dicaearchus used a grid to map locations.

59BC
A daily newspaper is published in Rome entitled Acta Diurna (Daily Events).

50BC
The Julian calendar is perfected by the astronomer Sosigenes, who lengthens the Egyptian solar calendar of 365 days to 365 1/2.

30BC
Marcus Terentius Varro produces the first Roman encyclopedia entitled ‘The Disciplines’.

25BC
Roman architect Vitruvius stated that good design is durable, useful and beautiful (firmitas, utilitas, venustas).

1st century AD
Dead Sea Scrolls written in Aramaic/Hebrew script.

77AD
The Roman Pliny the Elder produces an encyclopedia entitled ‘Natural History’ in 37 books and 2493 chapters.

105AD
A process for making paper is invented in China.

114AD
Roman lettering inscribed onto the Trajan Column.

160AD
Parchment is made in Asia.

140AD
Claudius Ptolemy (85-165AD) maps the known world using north orientation and plotting major locations with co-ordinates on lines of longitude and latitude. He publishes this work under the title of ‘Guide to Geography’ in eight parts.

220AD
The first known Chinese encyclopedia, ‘The Emperor’s Mirror’, is produced.

300AD
Mayan hieroglyphic writing invented.

350AD
Arabic alphabet developed.

350AD
The Greek make a bound book entitled ‘Codex Sinaiticus’.

390AD
Augustine establishes an early form of the encyclopaedia, which ordered human knowledge of the world and its customs.

400AD
Illustrated Chinese scrolls depicting moral tales are an early form of narrative structure.

550AD
Wood block book printing is developed in China.

618AD
Court reports are circulated amongst the literate Peking public.

623AD
Spanish scholar Saint Isidore of Seville compiles ‘Etymologies’ (or Origins)

700AD
Wood engraving is prevalent in China.

750AD
Musical notation is developed in Europe.

830AD
A ‘House of Wisdom’ is built in Baghdad.

847AD
Archbishop of Mainz, Rabanus Maurus establishes a methodology for the arrangement of information within encyclopedias.

850AD
First known Arabic encyclopaedia is compiled.

850AD
Development of the Slavic Cyrillic alphabet.

868AD
The first printed book in Chinese is published.

9th century
Al-Khwarizmi refines Ptolemy’s maps and produces a far more accurate positoning of places including co-ordinates for cities, mountains, seas and islands.

995AD
Al-Biruni writes ‘Cartography’.

11th century
The Bayeux Tapestry is a 230 feet visual narrative documenting the Norman invasion.

1000
French scholar Gerbert of Aurillac introduces a version of the abacus with Arabic numerals inscribed on stones.

1000
First references are made to movable type in China.

1050
The use of Arabic numerals becomes widespread in Europe aiding computation.

1025
Guido of Arezzo, a Benedictine monk, develops the concept of musical staff notation.

1050
Europe’s oldest university is established in Bologna.

1086
William the Conqueror instigates the first census and thereby establishes a public archive of land, possessions, and inhabitants.

1190
The magnetic compass is in use in China and Mediterranean.

1220-1244
Vincent de Beauvais, a Dominican friar, compiles ‘Great Mirror’ an important early encyclopedic work.

1234
The first use of moveable metal type in Korea.

1235
Ebstorf map of the world.

1260
Franco of Cologne codifies time values in music, which becomes a standard for musical notation between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries.

14th century
The Bishop of Lisieux (c1320-1382) is credited with drafting the first known graph depicting change.

1335
The first public mechanical clock that strikes the hours is erected in Milan, Italy.

1350
Paper mills are established in Europe.

1375
Abraham Cresques produces the Catalan World Map. This is based on the portolan (Italian for sailing manual) maps, which contained useful information for sailors such as wind direction.

1430
Metallographic printing is established in Holland and Germany and the notion of typographic composition gains popularity.

1455
Johann Gutenberg publishes the first printed bible.

1490
News journals are published every two weeks in England and are the primary means by which information is disseminated throughout Europe.

1507
Martin Waldseemuller publishes the first maps that unite disparate lands in the New World into a landmass of America. His 120 engraved sheets integrate the latest discoveries into a series of precise visual maps.

1525
Albrecht Dürer produces ‘Instructions on Measuring’.

1528
Sebastian Münster produces a woodcut regional map of Heidelberg.

1528
Publication of Albrecht Dürer’s illustration of human proportions.

1538
Geraldus Mercator, a Flemish cartographer, produces a world map. Mercator is also responsible for describing a book of maps as an atlas in 1578.

1543 Andreas Vesalius produces the first illustrated anatomical atlas of the human body.

1552
Richard Huloet publishes an English-Latin Abecedarian comprising the greatest number of definitions to have appeared in any similar dictionary to that date. Literacy was becoming more widespread.

1564
Catalogues appear at the Frankfurt and Leipzig Book Fairs.

1570
Abraham Ortelius publishes the first modern atlas of the world.

1578
Gregorian or New Style solar dating system is introduced.

1583
Joseph Justus Scaliger makes an analysis of previous historical documents that relate events to time and produces an updated corrected timescale of history. He is attributed with giving the chronological ordering of events a scientific basis.

1610-1612
Galileo maps the sun’s spots through detailed telescopic observations.

1620
Francis Bacon proposes a scheme for organising knowledge related to the human sciences.

1642
Blaise Pascal invents a calculator with numbers entered by dial wheels.

1656
Christiaan Huygens invents the pendulum clock. He went on to resolve the mysteries of Saturn and its rings.

1665

The Royal Society of London for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge publishes ‘Philosophical Transactions’, the earliest scientific periodical in the West. ‘Journal des Savants’ is launched in France in the same year.

1674
French scholar Louis Moreri produces one of the first notable encyclopedias organised alphabetically (dictionary-style) as opposed to the previous arrangement by topic.

1675
The Greenwich Observatory is the first scientific institution established in England.

1683
The Ashmolean Museum displaying art, archaeology and natural history opens in Oxford, Great Britain.

1686
Edmond Halley creates one of the first data maps showing trade winds and monsoons.

1697
French philosopher Pierre Bayle produces ‘Historical and Critical Dictionary’.

17th century
René Descartes defines the notion of horizontal (x) and vertical (y) axes. This became known as the Cartesian co-ordinate system.

1702
The Daily Courant is London’s first daily newspaper.

1704
The first North American newspaper, the Boston Newsletter, begins Publication.

1704
John Harris compiles ‘Lexicon Technicum’, the first alphabetically organised encyclopedia in the English language.

1715
Edmund Halley designs a predictive map of the eclipse of the sun and the shadow of the moon cast over England.

1728
Ephraim Chambers compiles ‘Cyclopaedia’ and is regarded as the ‘father of English encyclopaedic lexicography’.

1729
Stephen Switzer illustrates the rain cycle.

1733-1804
Joseph Priestley (1733-1804), an English scientist and teacher, is among the first to develop the horizontal time-line diagram.

1735
Carolus Linnaeus is the first systematic classification for understanding the diversity of natural life. It is an early example of the science of taxonomy.

1746
William Roy undertakes a military survey of the Scottish highlands commissioned by King George II and the British Ordinance Survey is born.

1755
Samuel Johnson publishes the first comprehensive and authoritative dictionary in English.

1759
The British Museum opens in London.

1762-72
Denis Diderot supervises publication of ‘Encyclopédie’, the first systematic treatment of human knowledge, practices and customs.

1765
William Blackstone documents the English common law.

1765
J H Lambert (1728-1777), a Swiss-German mathematician, is responsible for developing early prototypes of statistical diagrams and in particular the time-series chart. He orchestrated the move from analogical to relational graphics in 1765.

1768-1771
‘Encyclopedia Britannica’ is first published.

1784
Sir William Hershel, who discovered Uranus, publishes a map explaining galaxies.

1786
William Playfair (1759-1823), an English political economist popularises graphs as a means of visually representing data. His graph depicting imports and exports between Denmark and England of 1786 has since been much reproduced as an exemplary model of its time. Playfair popularises time-series graphs, bar charts, pie charts and the variable-area diagram through the publication ‘The Commercial and Political Atlas’.

1794
Claude Chappe invents semaphore in France.

1795
France adopts the metric system.

1800
The Library of Congress opens in Washington as the national library of the United States.

1814
The Times, produced in London, is the first newspaper to be printed on a steam-powered flatbed press. Five thousand copies an hour could be printed.

1812-1813
Charles Joseph Minard (1781-1870), a French engineer, designs a combined diagram and graph demonstrating loss of life during Napoleon's Russian campaign of 1812. Edward Tufte has called this depiction 'possibly the best statistical graphic ever drawn'.

1820
An economic and extensive US postal service is in operation and transports news and information throughout the country.

1820
Charles Xavier Thomas de Colmar produces the first commercially available calculator, the arithmometer, in France.

1827
Karl Baedeker of Koblenz publishes a series of travel guides that organises tourist information and uses a rating system of stars to classify amenities.

1828
The London Zoo is opened.

1829
Francis Lieber compiles 'Encyclopedia Americana'.

1837
Morse Code is used as a method of transmitting information.

1844
Samuel Morse sends the first telegram.

1846
The Smithsonian Institution is established in Washington DC, financed by a donation from the English scientist James Smithson.

1851
Sculptor Horatio Greenough coins the oft-quoted credo 'form follows function'. Some historians dispute this and credit American architect Louis Sullivan with introducing this notion in 1896.

1851 The Great Exhibition opens in London displaying 19th-century technology and culture.

1852
Peter Mark Roget publishes his Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases.

1854
Dr John Snow uses graphical means to plot the outbreak of cholera in London.

1854-55
Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), an English nurse, plots the daily loss of life during the winter months of the Crimean War on a polar graph. She presents the information to the

Ministry of War as evidence of soldiers dying due to disease and poor nursing and not as a result of their immediate battle wounds.

1855
The British government commissions Roger Fenton to document the Crimean War through photographic reportage. His pictures are later revealed to have misrepresented the real situation.

1857 Work begins on the Oxford English Dictionary. It would be first published in its current form in 1933.

1860
Carbon copy paper invented which facilitates the making of copies.

1861
Charles Darwin publishes The Origin of Species.

1867
Christopher Latham Sholes invents the typewriter.

1869
Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleyev publishes the periodic table of elements.

1875
Frank Stephen Baldwin invents a calculator that can add, subtract, multiply and divide. In 1891 he patents the Monroe calculator with James Monroe.

1876
Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.

1876
Thomas Edison invents the spirit duplicator as a means of making multiple copies of documents. This was the dominant means of information distribution within the office environment.

1876 Melvil Dewey introduces the numerical classification system known as Dewey Decimal.

1880
Henry Towne publishes the first graph of management data in the Transactions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This heralded the popular use of graphs in scientific management.

1884
The International Meridian Conference held in Washington DC establishes the Greenwich Meridian as the zero for longitude.

1885
E J Marey devises a graphical train schedule for the Paris to Lyon line.

1887

Eadweard Muybridge uses sequential photography to explain motion in ‘Animal Locomotion’.

1889
Charles Booth produces a map of London colour coding streets according to the level of poverty.

1890 Jacob Riis publishes How the Other Half Lives, a photographic record of poverty in New York City that was instrumental in encouraging legislative reforms.

1891
The International Geographical Congress in Bern establishes the International Map of the World with an agreed scale and set of symbols.

1895
The discovery of x-rays and subsequent imaging techniques enabled more detailed charting of the internal body.

1895
Guglielmo Marconi is responsible for the first wireless transmission.

1896
Auguste and Louis Lumiàre produce the first motion-picture documentaries and newsreels.

1898
Articles presented in the New York Morning Journal and the New York World contributed to the incitement of the Spanish-American War. This was an early example of the power of the news media

1900
Michael George Muhall invented pictorial statistics.

1900
The first Michelin guide is produced which uses space saving pictograms.

1904
Offset lithography introduced on a wider scale.

1907
The Physician and anthropologist Maria Montessori opens her first school, which espoused radical educational reform. Her ideas find favour with Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell in the US.

1908-19
‘The Great Japanese Encyclopedia’ is produced.

1915
D W Griffith’s ‘Birth of a Nation’ establishes the American narrative film style and marks the advent of cinema as an art form and means of information distribution.

1917

The use of multiple frequency transmission makes broadcast radio possible.

1922
The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) is established to co-ordinate the production of radio programming.

1923
Henry Luce and Briton Hadden produce Time Magazine, which becomes a standard for modern magazine journalism.

1925
The Bauhaus adopts the Deutsche Industriale Norm (DIN No674, 1924) A4 as a standard for printing stationery. Later this would become an international standard as promoted by the International Standards Organisation (ISO).

1926
The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) establishes a network of radio stations.

1926-47
'Great Soviet Encyclopedia' is published.

1928
Eastman Kodak introduces the Recordak system of microfilming, soon widely used in the storage of organisational records.

1930
Four colour offset lithographic reproduction begins.

1931
The telex becomes a popular method of distributing information pre-dating the fax.

1932
The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) transmits its first programmes.

1933
Henry Beck, a technical draughtsman and lecturer at the London College of Printing, designs the famous diagrammatic map of the London Underground. This would become the model for other underground transport system maps globally.

1933
Publication of Oxford English Dictionary.

1933 Vannevar Bush of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology constructs the differential analyser, a powerful analogue computer.

1936
Otto Neurath introduced the Isotype (International System of Typographical Picture Education) method of representing information. Otto and Marie Neurath had been developing the Isotype system throughout the 1920s.

1937-43

John Atranasoff, an American theoretical physicist at Iowa State College, builds the first electronic digital computer.

1938
Allen Lane launches Penguin books, initiating mass production of good-quality paperback books.

1939
The National Broadcasting Company, CBS and Dumont networks begin television broadcasts for two hours per week.

1940
Buckminster-Fuller produces his Dymaxion Air-Ocean map. An earlier version dates back to 1927.

1941 Kondrad Zuse constructs the first fully operational binary computer, the Z3.

1945
Johann von Neumann, J Presper Eckert, and John Maucly design the first modern stored memory computer.

1948
Claude Elwood Shannon and Warren Weaver evolve ‘The Mathematical Theory of Information’. Shannon had been experimenting with an information theory as early as 1937.

1949
The United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport held in Geneva passed a protocol with recommendations for a new visual standard for road signage.

1949
Television as a means for distributing information becomes extremely popular. At this point in the US, there are one million television receivers in use. In
1951 ten million are in use and in 1959 the fifty million mark is passed.

1952
Under Thomas Watson Jr. IBM begins its campaign to dominate the computer market.

1954
Colour television broadcasting in the United States begins.

1957
The typefaces Helvetica and Univers are designed. Their considered design places emphasis on clarity of letter recognition and are therefore eminently suitable for information design tasks such as signage systems.

1959-1960
Charles and Ray Eames are influential through their presentation of information in three-dimensional environments. Glimpses of the USA was exhibited in Moscow in 1959 and Mathematica in Los Angeles in 1960.

1960
Will Burton designs The Brain Exhibition. The theatrical use of stage sets, lights and images was an early precursor of the multimedia presentations that were to come.

1960
The Haloid Xerox Company introduces the plain-paper copier, based on a process invented by Chester Carlson.

1960
Libraries commence using On-line Public Access Catalogues (OPAC).

1961
The publication of Merriam-Webster's Third International Dictionary adopts a neutral linguistic description in preference to prescriptive judgments of correct usage.

1962
The Americans put Telstar, the first communication satellite, into orbit and satellite television broadcasting is born.

1962 The first modem introduced in the United States marketed by the American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AT&T).

1964-1969
Sony invents the Video Tape Recorder (VTR).

1964
Margaret Calvert and Jock Kinnear develop a signage system for British roads in response to recommendation from the Worboys Committee. An accompanying typeface entitled 'Transport' is designed which places emphasis on readability, clarity and recognition at speed.

1965
Virtual reality technology emerges with simulators that teach pilots how to fly planes using head-mounted displays with tracking systems.

1965-1968
Douglas Engelbart invents the mouse and the means by which we interface with the computer screen. Engelbart is responsible for introducing the notion of hypertext and wysiwyg (what you see is what you get) display of text.

1966
Hermann Bollmand draws a highly detailed axonometric aerial projection of New York City.

1967
Amsterdam multi-disciplinary design consultancy, Total Design is commissioned to design the signage system at Schiphol Airport. Bureaux Mijksenaar develop the signage further between 1991 and 1994. The clear signage with distinctive black type on yellow background started what Saul Carliner describes as 'a chain reaction of excellence' amongst other international airport signage.

1967

Richard Saul Wurman produces his Urban Atlas, which was the first comparative statistical atlas of major American cities. Wurman subsequently went on to produce the Access guides and USAtlas.

1969
The Internet is born.

1970s
Arno Peters produces a more accurate world map projection. The overall effect is to make the landmasses appear longer vertically than Mercator's less accurate standard accepted model.

1970
Tel Design introduced the large-scale use of pictograms on the Dutch railway.

1971
Ray Tomlinson, a computer engineer, sends the first email. Tomlinson is attributed with picking the @ locator symbol for electronic addresses.

1971
The laser printer enables high-resolution computer graphics and desktop publishing.

1972
Xerox introduces the Alto, which becomes the model for Apple Macintosh and other personal computers.

1972
Otl Aicher devises a pictographic scheme for the ground breaking graphic information system at the Munich Olympics.

1972
American astrophysicist Carl Sagan designs a space age diagram that is mounted on the space craft Pioneer 10 and launched into space with the thought alien life would gain some knowledge of life on earth.

1973
Jacques Bertin, a French cartographer, publishes 'Semiologie Graphique' which defines the elements of visual information and their relationships.

1974
The American Institute of Graphic Arts develop a set of icons for the US Department of Transportation.

1974
Bar codes are introduced and aid the efficiency of stock control.

1975
Microsoft is co-founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen.

1976

Steve Jobs and Steven Wosniak establish Apple Computers. The Apple Macintosh is launched in 1984 and was adopted by the graphic design industry.

1978
The NATO Conference on Visual Presentation of Information was held in Het Vennenbos, The Netherlands. The Information Design Journal (IDJ) was conceived during this conference with the first issue released in 1979.

1979
The Xerox Corporation introduces the Ethernet, which becomes the standard computer intercommunications network.

1979
The information design group MetaDesign is co-founded by Erik Spiekermann

1980s
Jonathan Miller and David Pelham produce a pop-up book explaining human anatomy entitled ‘The Human Body’.

1982
USA Today is published and becomes the United States’ first national, general-interest newspaper.

1982
Phillip and Phyllis Morrison along with the Office of Charles and Ray Eames design the influential publication ‘Powers of Ten’.

1982
Maya Lin designs the Vietnam War Memorial and chooses a chronological ordering over an alphabetic arrangement to enhance the sense of individual loss.

1983
Thomas Malone writes his influential paper, ‘How do people organise their desks: Implications for designing office automation systems’. Many cite this text as the inspiration behind the use of icons and the desktop metaphor in computing systems.

1983
Edward Tufte publishes ‘The Visual Display of Quantitative Information’. ‘Envisioning Information’ in 1990 and ‘Visual Explanations’ in 1997 follow.

1984
Paul Brainard, President of the Aldus Corporation, coins the term ‘Desk Top Publishing’ (DTP). The technological means for the general public to design and publish their own information is available through affordable software and hardware.

1985
Philips and Sony introduce the Compact Disc Read-Only Memory (CD-ROM).

1985
Grolier produce the first CD-ROM format Encyclopedia.

1987
Philips prototype Compact Disc Interactive information systems. These are launched in the early 1990s.

1988
The Vienna-based International Institute for Information Design was formed.

1988
‘The Psychology of Everyday Things’ by Donald A Norman is published.

1989-1991
Tim Berners-Lee, an Oxford graduate, is credited with inventing the World Wide Web and in the process defining Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML), Hyper Text Transfer Protocols (HTTP) and Universal Resource Locators (URL).

1989
Richard Saul Wurman publishes Information Anxiety. Information Architects in 1996, Understanding in 1999, and Information Anxiety 2 in 2000 follow.

1990
The Human Genome Project commences mapping the location of all genes on every chromosome in human beings.

1991
Ted Turner launches the Cable News Network (CNN). The network gains worldwide attention for its twenty-four hour coverage. Live broadcasts from the Iraq War revolutionise news reporting.

1991
The London-based Information Design Association was formed.

1991
The Micro Gallery opens at London’s National Gallery allowing visitors to explore information on over 2200 paintings.

1992
Bob Cotton and Richard Oliver co-author ‘Understanding Hypermedia’. ‘The Cyberspace Lexicon’ follows in 1994.

1992
Stephen Biesty’s Incredible Cross-sections is published and explains human interactions with complex mechanisms.

1993
Adobe Acrobat was released which allowed Portable Document Format (PDF) files to be created and viewed. John Warnock, a co-founder of Adobe, was instrumental in developing this project as a step towards the paperless office.

1993

Marc Andreessen and others at the University of Illinois release Mosaic, a graphical web browser that gains popularity and becomes the model for browsers released by Netscape and Microsoft.

1993
Apple launches the Newton Messagepad, the first ‘personal digital assistant’ (PDA).

1993
Microsoft releases a digital multimedia encyclopedia entitled ‘Encarta Encyclopedia’. In 1997 this would become the first encyclopedia released in DVD format.

1994
Yuri Engelhardt creates the InfoDesign and InfoDesign-Cafe lists.

1996
The US-based Information Design Association is formed in a partnership with IIID. It is merged into the IIID in 1997.

1996
Dynamic Diagrams design the Britannica On Line website.

1996
Meta Design begins work on a new signage system for Dusseldorf Airport after extensive fire damage. Fatalities resulting from the fire were attributed to a lack of passenger awareness of the previous emergency exit signage.

1997
Mark Monmonier authors the book ‘Cartographies of Danger’ which includes dot maps. The single dot as a device to represent information is the most economic way to reduce visual clutter.

1997
The Society of Technical Communication Information Design Special Interest Group is formed.

1997
Jorge Frascara writes ‘User-centred Graphic Design’.

1997
Yoshiaki Nishimura designs a digital museum entitled ‘Sensorium’ for the web.

1997
Paul Mijksenaar, a professor at Delft University in Holland, publishes a critical overview of information design entitled, ‘Visual Function’.

1997
Peter Bogaards begins publishing his InfoDesign weblog.

1998
The on-line bookseller Amazon.com becomes the world’s largest book retailer as measured by market capitalisation.

1999
InformationDesign.org is published as a resource for the information design community.

1999
Robert Jacobson publishes the edited volume Information Design.

2000
Google, named after googol a word that represents the number 1 followed by 100 zeros, was already handling 100 million information searches each day.

Compiled by Tony Pritchard
The information provided here is correct to my knowledge.

t.pritchard@lcc.arts.ac.uk