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## Intimate

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## Searching

For those whose student days  
reside in mature memories,  
it was like mining for gold:  
sifting through mounds of material,  
searching for a nugget,  
hoping to unearth an information  
mother lode.

Toiling on a term paper  
meant rummaging about musty library  
stacks,  
juggling piles of handwritten note  
cards,  
extracting gems from obscure sources.  
This mandatory, mind-stretching  
exercise  
demanded academic discipline,  
developed intellectual “muscle”,  
even garnered an occasional glittering  
grade.

Physical mining remains strenuous.  
Mining information is now stream-  
lined;  
simplified by powerful computer search  
engines

programmed to capture, catalog,  
retrieve, serve.

Need information about “Extinct New  
Zealand Birds”,  
“Medieval Celtic Music”, or “2nd  
Century Roman Coins”?

A few keyboard strokes, mouse clicks  
launch today’s inquirer  
into information-clogged cyberspace  
where thousands of sources materi-  
alize  
in hundredths of a second.

Google rules!  
Accessible, addictive, instantaneous  
information portal.

Warning!  
Individual results may vary.  
Repeated use  
does not guarantee wisdom.

*John J. Gordon*



Intimate  
Photography by Sarah Patterson