In this book Kaj Grønbæk and Randall H. Trigg present a set of principles for the design of open hypermedia systems and provide concrete implications of these principles for issues ranging from data structures to architectures and system integration, and for settings as diverse as the World Wide Web and the workplace. The principles, which cover both hypermedia system processing and data structures, reflect results from decades of hypermedia research, including the popular Dexter hypertext reference model and the authors own extended object-oriented version of the Dexter model. One important principle is the notion of links as first-class objects outside the data. Emerging systems such as HyperWave, Microcosm, and Devise Hypermedia apply this principle to extend the capabilities of the Web. The authors also discuss the management of incomplete and dangling links, time-based media including video and sound, support for collaboration and shared hypermedia structures, worldwide distribution, and integration of third-party applications in open hypermedia systems.

My Personal Review:
This book was a complete disappointment. I bought it to learn about hypermedia systems. What I read was an exercise in pseudo-academic self indulgence. The authors clearly know their stuff, but equally clearly, they were more interested in showing off their knowledge than in communicating it.

The book is full of references to earlier hypertext/hypermedia systems, but they all assume that the reader is as familiar with them as the authors. The net result is that only someone who is already an expert in this field can make any sense out of anything they are saying.
The book includes a number of "design patterns," but they are of little value. None of them includes a "motivation" section to put the problem into perspective. Nor do they include many of the other sections (applicability, structure, collaborations, etc) that made the "Design Patterns" book so valuable.

Similarly, the object-oriented framework for hypermedia they discuss is presented at only the most abstract level, with little discussion of practical implementation and use issues.

If you are already an expert in this field and you want an academic discussion of the state of the art, this book might be OK. Otherwise, forget it.

Amazon is getting my copy back. The publisher needs feedback too.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
From Web to Workplace: Designing Open Hypermedia Systems (Digital Communication) by Kaj Gronbaek - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!