Creating a Digital Commons

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& Heather Morrison
British Columbia Library
Association Conference April 21, 2006
The Commons

The phrase Information Commons refers to our shared knowledge-base and the processes that facilitate or hinder its use. The term "commons" refers to the land (or grounds) that villagers shared for grazing purposes in simpler times.

From: the CLA Information Commons Interest Group Wiki, at: http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki/
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

- Open access
- Scholarly, peer-reviewed
- Periodically updated
- Supported by grants, libraries, philosophy departments
- http://plato.stanford.edu/
Disjunction

Disjunction is a binary truth-function, the output of which is a sentence true if at least one of the input sentences (disjuncts) is true, and false otherwise. Disjunction, together with negation, provide sufficient means to define all other truth-functions. Its supposed connection with the or words of natural language has intrigued and mystified philosophers for many centuries, and the subject has inspired much creative myth-making, particularly since the advent of truth-tables early in the twentieth century. In this article some of those myths are set out and dispelled.
Completed in 2003, the Human Genome Project (HGP) was a 13-year project coordinated by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health. During the early years of the HGP, the Wellcome Trust (U.K.) became a major partner; additional contributions came from Japan, France, Germany, China, and others. See our history page for more information.

Project goals were to
- identify all the approximately 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA.
- determine the sequences of the 3 billion chemical base pairs that make up human
If there is a better research method - why not find out before you do the research?
Bloggers trample on MP’s hopes for reelection

The Progressive Bloggers anti-endorsement: Defeat Bev Oda and Sam Bulte

$250 a plate dinner for one-sided copyright MP - organized by copyright lobbyists

Sam Bulte defeated

Media Democracy in Action:

Be the Media!

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Be the Media!

CLA Info Commons Wiki

http://www.infocommons.ca/wiki
Sampling

Music: piracy - or new art form?

Freedom Under Attack
9/11 music based on sampling
Transforming the sounds of tragedy into music
Transformation vs. Repetition
Traditions of transforming story & song
- a human need? a right?
Librarians & the commons: sampling

- Cataloguing
- Sharing pathfinders & tutorials
  - COPPUL Animated Tutorials Project - see Jessica Mussell in Libraries Sharing Technology for Sharing Session tomorrow
- Customizable press releases
E-LIS http://eprints.rclis.org/
Is hiring Davidoff as Interim Editor CMAJ's last chance?

Despite an almost inexplicable series of gaffes since January 2006, emeritus editor of the Annals of Internal Medicine Dr. Frank Davidoff has agreed to serve as the Canadian Medical Association Journals’ Interim Editor, according to this Canadian Press article.

Some may view Davidoff’s appointment as a positive sign for the beleaguered Canadian journal, but the CMAJ is not out of the woods by a longshot. In fact, a panel led by Antonio Lamer, a retired chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, is studying the issue of the strained relationship between the CMAJ and the CMA and will make recommendations regarding a new governance structure in late June.

In the meantime, one question arises: is all of this too little, too late? Reputations are hard to build, and even harder to restore.

April SPARC Open Access Newsletter

The April 2006 SPARC Open Access Newsletter is now available. Peter Suber highlights the The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG)’s adoption of an OA policy instructing grantees to provide OA to

OA Resources

New to OA?
Start with Peter Suber’s
A Very Brief Introduction to Open Access

Search for OA LIS Resources
OA Journals
Directory of Open Access Journals:
Library and Information Science

LIS OA Archives
E-LIS: E-Prints in
Library and Information Science
dl.is: Digital Library for
Information Science and Technology
Archive SIC: Archive Ouverte en Sciences de l’Information et de la Communication

LIS OA Metasearch
DL-Harvest
MetaLIST

OA Bibliographies
OA Bibliography (PDF)
OA Weblogiography

http://oalibrarian.blogspot.com

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Directory of Open Access Journals
http://www.doaj.org

Find journals
New titles
Search articles
Suggest a journal

Browse by subject
Social Sciences, Library and Information Science
  * Bibliography (1 journal)

About
Questions & answers
ACIMED
ISSN: 10249435
EISSN: 15612880
Subject: Library and Information Science, Medicine (General)
Publisher: Centro Nacional de Información de Ciencias Médicas
Language: Spanish
Keywords: health sciences
Start Year: 1993

For journal owners
Anales de Documentación
ISSN: 15752437
EISSN: 16977904
Subject: Library and Information Science
Publisher: Universidad de Murcia, Facultad de Comunicación y Documentación
Language: Spanish, English, French
Keywords: documentation, archival science, librarianship, documental restoration, information literacy
Start Year: 1998

Ariadne
ISSN: 13613197
EISSN: 13613200
Subject: Library and Information Science
Publisher: UKOLN. University of Bath
Language: English

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Key Policy Issues for the Commons

🌟 Open Access
- Governments & Funding Agencies
- Academic Institutions
- Personal

🌟 Telecommunications
- Net neutrality
- WIPO webcasting treaty

🌟 Copyright for the Commons
Open Access to the Scholarly Literature

- Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. (Peter Suber, Open Access Overview).
- http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm
- Works that scholars give away – peer-reviewed journal article.
- Makes sense for government information too!
- Different approaches – OA publishing, OA by self-archiving
Research funders & universities: mandate open access

- Funders want to disseminate research
- Open access is optimum
- 79% of researchers are willing

But don’t archive voluntarily

U.S. NIH Public Access Policy: OA not required; less than 4% compliance

Public Access Working Group working on a stronger policy

http://www.eprints.org/berlin3/ppts/02-AlmaSwan.ppt
Wellcome Trust: Open and Unrestricted Access to Published Research

Strongest mandate to date
Deposit articles in PubMedCentral
Compromise with publishers - up to 6 months to deposit
If publisher does not allow, reconsider where to publish
All grants awarded after October 2005
OA & Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSRHC)

🌿 SSHRC Open Access Consultation

🌿 Open access policy since April 2005

🌿 SSHRC subsidizes academic journals in social sciences & humanities in Canada

🌿 Current rules (subscriber minimum) are biased against open access

🌿 BCLA & CLA SSHRC OA Submissions
Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)

Access to Products of Health Research Policy in development
Public comments welcome, due May 15, 2006

Survey at:
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/30948.html
Open Access Policy: Academic Institutions

- Developing open archives (institutional repositories)
- Libraries are creating OA academic presses
- Mandating open access
  - CERN: 360,000 + docs.
  - Athabasca University: in the works
Open Access Policy: All Kinds of Libraries

- Promote Open Access Resources
- Create a space for the commons - host journals, free community e-newsletters
- Teach the means to create the commons
  - Open Journal Systems
  - Blogs, Wikis, Podcasting, etc....
Open Access Policy: Personal

 Publish in open access journals - or, create your own!

 DOAJ LIS journals list:

 http://www.doaj.org/ljbs?cpid=129

 Partnership E-Journal (coming)

 Self-archive

 E-LIS  http://eprints.rclis.org/
Telecommunications: Net Neutrality

Radio started as a two-way medium for communications, just like the internet.

To remain free, the net must be neutral - every piece of code must be treated equal.

"It stops being the Net if a supplier of downloaded video pays to connect to a particular set of consumers who are connected to a particular cable company. It would no longer be an open information space,"

Tim Berners-Lee, Toronto Star
Telecommunications

Access Issues - CAP program

WIPO Webcasting Treaty (2007):
Copyright for media for webcasters - even for material in the public domain
Copyright for the Commons

- No crown copyright
- Reasonable length of terms
- Copyright belongs to the creator, unless given away with creator’s consent: no automatic rights for middleman
  - Not direct
  - Not indirect through TPM non-circumvention
- Freedom to share / gift culture
Creative Commons Canada
http://creativecommons.ca/

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Creative Commons License Choices
Conclusion…
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🌼 Working together
🌼 Libraries: building a space for the commons
🌼 Policy for the commons:
  🌼 Open access
  🌼 Net Neutrality
  🌼 Copyright for the Commons
Questions? Contact:

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BC Electronic Library Network
http://eln.bc.ca
heatherm@eln.bc.ca

The Imaginary Journal of Poetic Economics
http://poeticeconomics.blogspot.com
Creating the Digital Commons

Part II - Tools for the Shepard
by Olivier Charbonneau
o.charbonneau@concordia.ca
www.culturelibre.ca
Alternatively,

Olivier’s 30 minute MBA!
Tools for the Shepard

When are digital projects fit for collaboration?

- Lessig’s (1999) regulatory framework
- Benkler’s (2005) “commons based peer production” framework
- And the SWOT framework
Lessig’s Regulatory Frmwk

Beyond classic copyright theory, how to regulate the Internet? (specially “free content”)

Before Creative Commons…

Code (1999), p. 88:

- Market
- Architecture
- Norms
- Law

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Lessig and Wikipedia

Market:
Cost of producing & purchasing encycl.

Architecture:
Wikis (LAMP), RSS, HTTP...

Law:
“Work for hire” in USA’s ©

Norms:
Editorial policy

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Benkler’s Peer Production

Classic economic theory has 2 paradigms for the organization of production:
- Employees in firms
- Individuals in markets
But, what about collaboration?

Rewards are what motivate a “rational economic agent”
Rewards can be perceived or quantitative
A new approach is needed for peer production…
Benkler’s Peer Production

The Case of Digital Information

- Digital information goods are purely nonrival
- Apart from the human factor, the input (information) is the same as the output (info)

- Processors & computers are everywhere
- Creative talent is quite variable and can sometimes be found “cheap”
- Networks are inexpensive
Benkler’s Peer Production

\[ R = M_s + H + SP_p, jalt \]

**Rewards (R) are:**
- monetary to the point of satiation
- Purely hedonistic, which is a personal characteristic
- Sociopsychological factors, influenced by $ or “p” and jealousy/altruism or “jalt”

**Rewards (R) are:**
- \( M = \) Monetary (“s” for satiation)
- \( H = \) Intrinsic hedonic (independent of M & SP)
- \( SP = \) Socio/psycho \( p \) is M&SP correlation’s while jalt is “jealousy/altruism”
Benkler’s what ??

\[ R = M_s + H + SP_p, jalt \]
Rewards = Monetary + Hedonic + Socio/Psy

The case of a diner party:
- I like to invite friends even if it costs me money (-M)
- Because it is fun (+H)
- My friends are usually impressed (+SP_{jalt})
- I may get invited to other diner parties, which will allow me to recuperate my costs (+SP_p)

“Gift Giving” or “Potlatch” economy…

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Benkler’s Peer Production

\[ R = M_s + H + SP_p, jalt \]

Rewards = Monetary + Hedonistic + Socio/Psy

-The case of open source software (OOS):
  - I like to give away code even if it takes a lot of my time (-M)
  - And even if I hate to program (-H) because :
  - The OOS community is usually impressed (+SP_{jalt})
  - I have something to put in my resumé (+SP_{jalt})
  - And I can have free applications that would cost way too much for me to purchase on my own (+SP_p)

- “Gift Giving” of information goods becomes economically viable on the Internet

-Potential of Open Access = the “University Model”

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Benkler’s Peer Production

\[ R = M_s + H + SP_{p, jalt} \]

Rewards = Monetary + Hedonic + Socio/Psy

A framework to identify and analyze collaborative projects
Alter’s WCAF (1999)

Work Centered Analysis Framework

Used to analyze “information technology systems”

Tries to answer:

How to computerize a department?
How can re-engineer a workflow?

Useful to get the “big picture”
Alter’s WCAF (1999)
Alter’s WCAF and CanLII

Canadian Legal Information Institute

SCOPE OF COVERAGE / ADVANCED SEARCH / FRANÇAIS

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Alter’s WCAF and CanLII

Customers (external to system)
- Bar Association’s Law libraries
- Canadian Lawyers, researchers…

Products
- Federal & Provincial statutes, court cases in one database
- On the Internet since 2000 for free!

Business Processes
- Develop new software
- Update existing legal content
- Scan archival content

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Alter’s WCAF and CanLII

Participants
- Université de Montréal legal research center LexUM
- Programmers
- Student-editors

Information
- Primary legal information (laws, court cases)

Technology
- Open source databases, PERL, PHP, etc.

WCF is great for “systems analysis” and to provide an overview

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WCAF, CanLii and SWOT

- WCAF is a “static” model, provides a snapshot at one period in time
- SWOT allows to look into the future

- Internal factors to the business system
  - Strength + Weaknesses
- External factors, business environment
  - Opportunities + Threats

- Classic strategic mgmt framework

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# WCAF, CanLii and SWOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal Factors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strength</strong></td>
<td><strong>Weakness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Consolidated open archive of Canadian legal materials</td>
<td>✅ Content only since 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>✅ Updates occur monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External Factors</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Threats</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Clients can become creators or “participants” with collaboration</td>
<td>✅ No other revenue streams (other than direct financing from Bar Assoc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Digitization projects</td>
<td>✅ Competitive industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✅ Holding OA articles</td>
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Session Recap

When are digital projects fit for collaboration?

Lessig’s (1999) regulatory framework
- Market, Architecture, Norms, Law

Benkler’s (2005) “peer production” framework
- Rewards are monetary, hedonic, socio/psy

Alter’s (1999) Work Centered Analysis Framework for systems analysis
- Clients, products, business processes, information, participants, technology
- And SWOT for strategic management analysis
Fin!

(Olivier’s 30 minute MBA)

Part 2: Tools for the Shepard

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Bibliography


http://www.prenhall.com/divisions/bp/app/alter/about/wca.html
Thank you!

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