

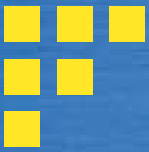
Digital Monks Share Their Code:

What Would Hugh Taylor Say
About Open Source Software?

Corinne Rogers & Elizabeth Shaffer

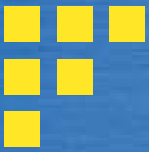
June 10, 2010

ACA Conference, Halifax



Outline

- A prophetic vision
- Transformation of culture
- Impact of media on records/society
- Industrial model to connected intelligence
- The movement to Open Source
- Open Source and archives



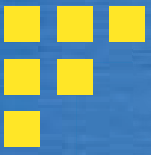
A Prophetic Vision...

Jigsaw Puzzle

- Separate pieces with only one solution
- Product of the industrial age

Transformer

- Interconnected “bits” can be assembled and reassembled into many different configurations
- “the pattern changes, the meaning changes, but the data – the given ‘bits’ – remain the same”
- A post-industrial model



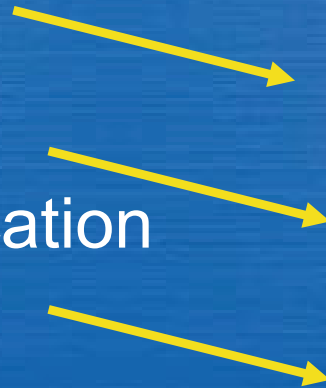
Transformation of Culture

Centralization

How do we classify knowledge?



Decentralization

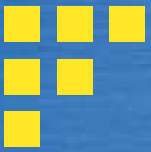


Assymetry

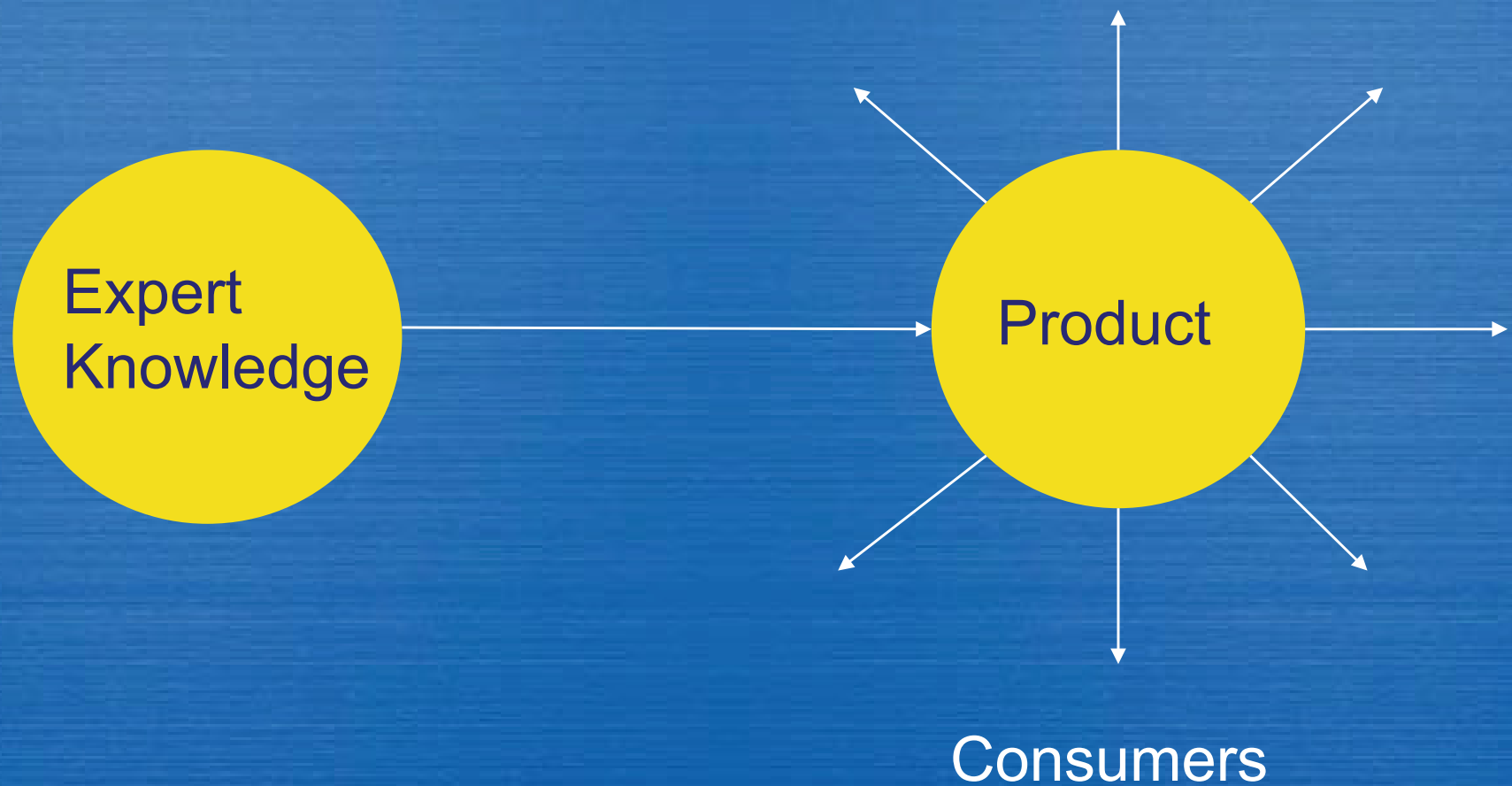
Commodification

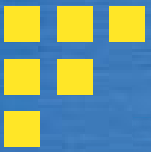
Interdisciplinarity

Service

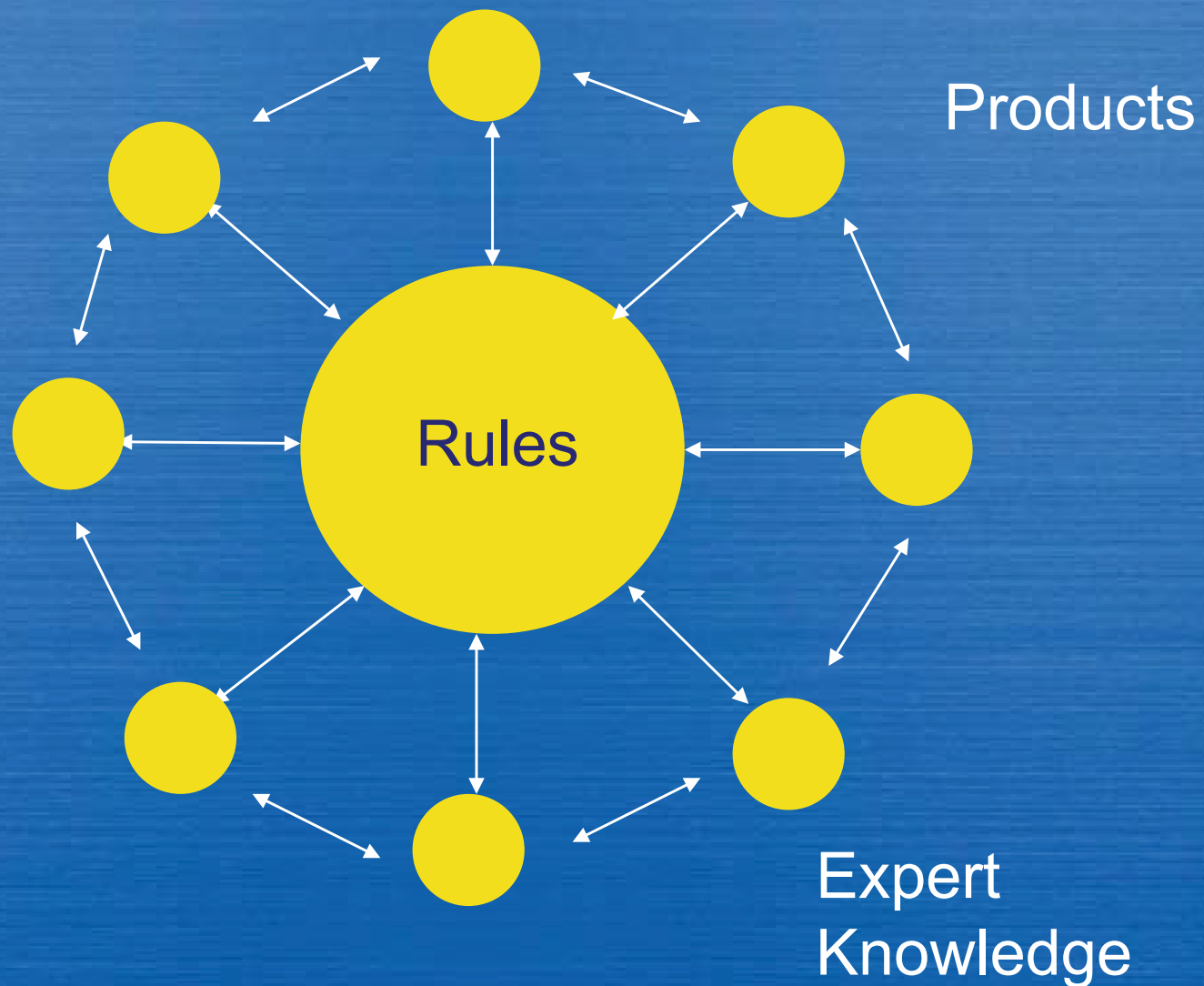


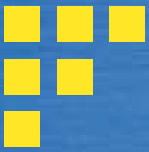
From the Industrial Model ...





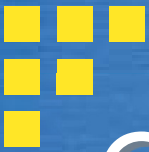
...to Connected Intelligence





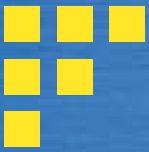
Impact of medium of the record

- The nature of media
- McLuhan
 - “medium is the message”
- The power of distributed capital
- The effect of group effort



Open Source: a model for the new paradigm?

- Power of a distributed peer network
- Transparency of process
- Can be freely used, modified and redistributed
- Is defined by the license which makes it available to the public



Open Source Definition

- Free redistribution
- Source code included
- Modifications, derived works allowed
- Integrity of author's source code
- No discrimination against persons, groups, or against fields of endeavor
- Distribution of license
- Licenses not specific to a product
- Licenses do not restrict other software
- Licenses are technology-neutral

■ ■ ■ Licensing: Copyright v. Copyleft

Copyright: Protects the individual creator from unrestricted distribution of his/her work

CopyLeft: protects the right to freely distribute a work without restrictions

Controlled access v. Free access

Open source licenses exist along a continuum:

Open - Proprietary

Open in Proprietary

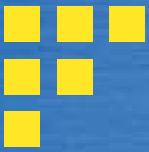
Always Open

Public domain

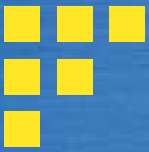
Weak copyleft

Strong copyleft





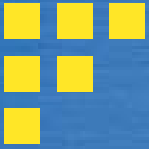
What do Harvard, University of Florida, Stanford, Cornell, MIT, UC Berkeley and San Diego, the National Archives of the UK, Australia, the Netherlands and the Portuguese National Archives all have in common?



Bringing it back to Taylor

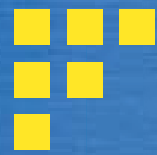
- In Open Source we see the power of the group at work
- Jigsaw puzzle has given way to transformer

“... open source is part of a communications revolution designed to maximize the free sharing of ideas expressed in code.” Tim O'Reilly



Thank you!

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Bibliography

- The Open Source Definition (Annotated) - official definition of “open source software”, with some explanations. <http://www.opensource.org/docs/definition.php>
- Free Software Definition - official definition of “Free software” (aka libre software; note the unusual capitalization). <http://www.gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the GPL - Explains many issues relating to the GPL, and includes a detailed compatibility matrix for various versions of the GPL and LGPL (including some details about how they can be combined). <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-faq.html>
- Various Licenses and Comments About Them - Legal commentary by the Free Software Foundation (FSF) about many licenses. <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/license-list.html>
- “Commercial” is not the opposite of Free-Libre / Open Source Software (FLOSS)” - Explains why most FLOSS is commercial software. <http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/commercial-floss.html>
- Why Open Source Software / Free Software (OSS/FS, FLOSS, or FOSS)? Look at the Numbers! - Large collection of statistics on FLOSS programs. http://www.dwheeler.com/oss_fs_why.html
- Make Your Open Source Software GPL-Compatible. Or Else - Explains why FLOSS should be released under a GPL-compatible license, and includes many statistics showing that the GPL is the most popular FLOSS license. <http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/gpl-compatible.html>
- Maintaining Permissive-Licensed Files in a GPL-Licensed Project: Guidelines for Developers by the Software Freedom Law Center. <http://www.softwarefreedom.org/resources/2007/gpl-non-gpl-collaboration.html>
- Available at <http://www.dwheeler.com/essays/floss-license-slide.html>