



From Jigsaw Puzzles to Transformers



Does Open Source Software
fit in the World of
Electronic Records Management?

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SLAIS Student Research Day

Outline

“You say you want a revolution

Well, you know

We all want to change the world...

...jigsaw puzzle to transformer

You say you got a real solution

Well, you know

We’d all love to see the plan...”

...Open source - where does it find its place

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

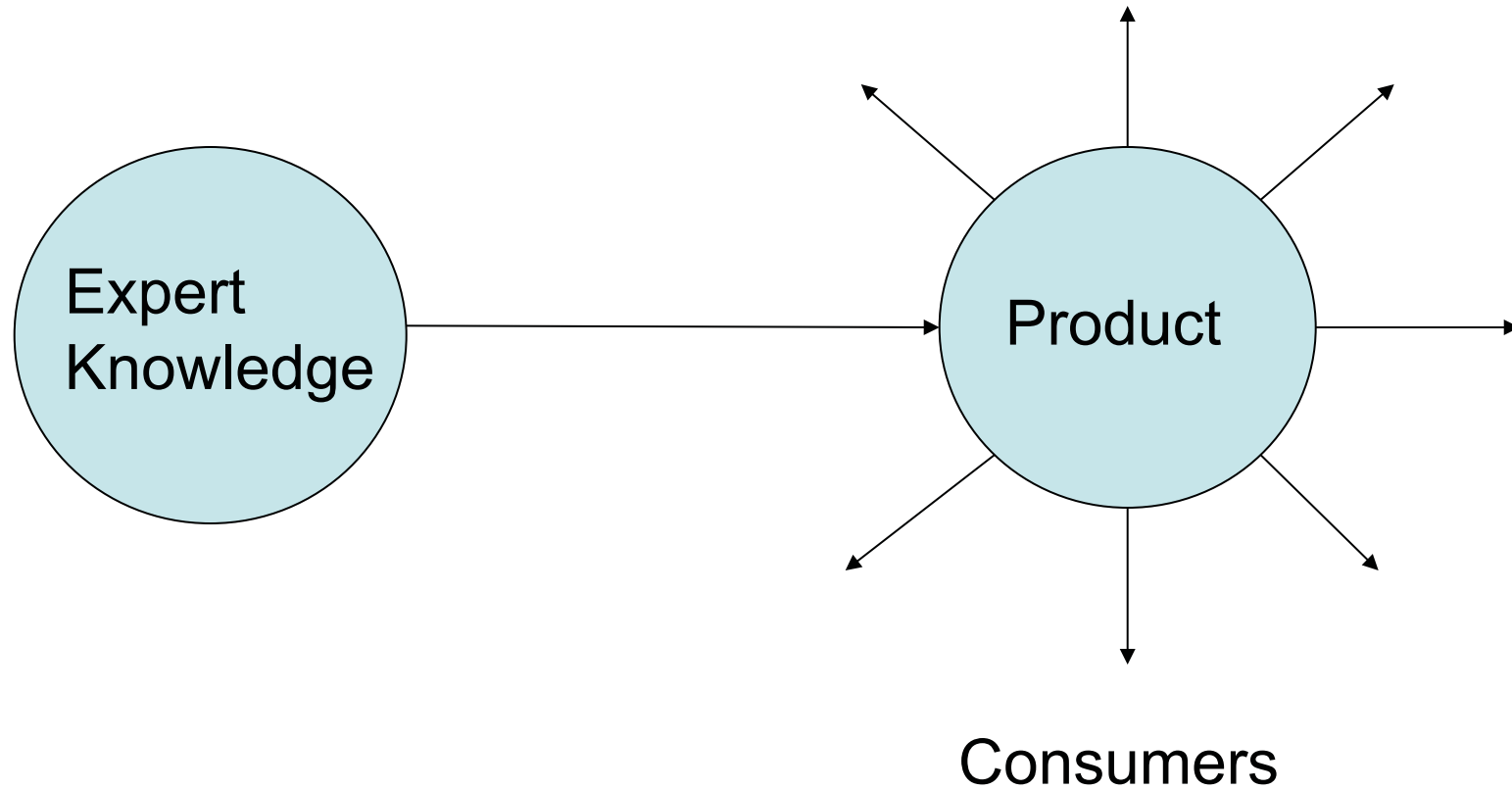
- How do we classify knowledge?
- Asymmetry
- Commodification
- Decentralization

“You say you want a revolution...”

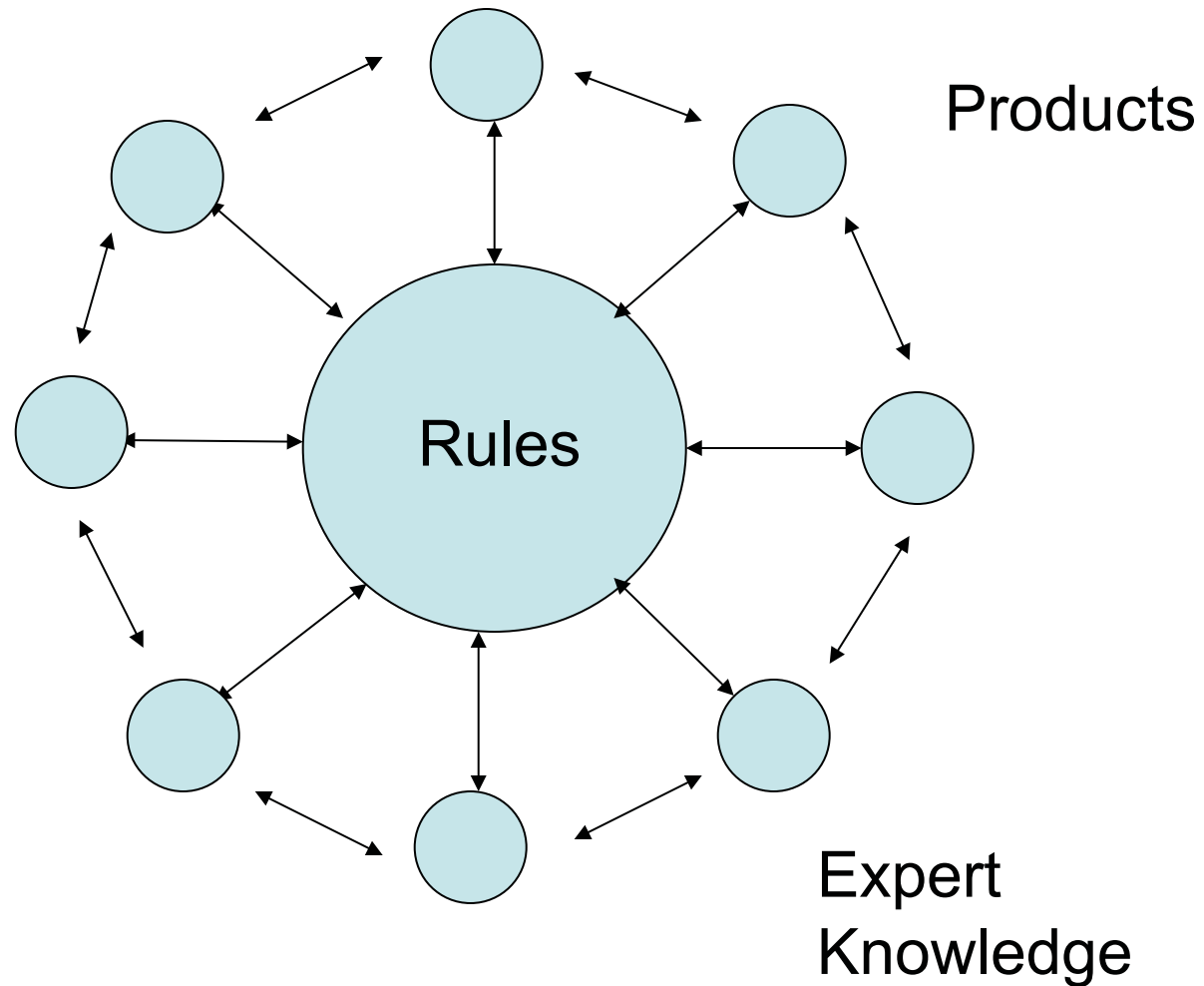
- The nature of media
- “The medium is the message”
- The power of distributed capital

McLuhan believed that the “effect of all new technologies is to impose, silently and pervasively, their deep assumptions upon the human psyche.” (Viseu quoting Kroker)

From the Industrial Model ...



...to Connected Intelligence



“You say you want a revolution...”

“Just as the Copernican revolution was part of a broader social revolution that turned society away from hierarchy and received knowledge, and instead sparked a spirit of inquiry and knowledge sharing, open source is part of a communications revolution designed to maximize the free sharing of ideas expressed in code.” Tim O’Reilly

“We all want to change the world...”

Open Source Software:

- can be freely used, modified and redistributed
- Is defined by the license which makes it available to the public

“you say you got a real solution...”

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?

“We’d all love to see the plan...”

Is there a similar movement in the world of records management?

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“Don’t you know its gonna be all right...”

Thank you!

Comments & questions welcome