

New Challenges for Knowledge

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Digital Dynamics to Access and Sharing

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Contents

Introduction	xiii
Part 1. Production: Global Knowledge and Science in the Digital Era.	1
Chapter 1. Current Knowledge Dynamics	3
1.1. Transparency of scientific data	4
1.1.1. Transparency of access	5
1.2. Transparency of experimental protocol	6
1.2.1. For scientists...	6
1.2.2. And as for citizens	6
1.3. A necessary form of research engineering.	7
1.4. Confusion between data and scientific results: avoiding manipulation of research results.	8
Chapter 2. Digital Conditions for Knowledge Production	11
2.1. An economic system oriented toward innovation	11
2.2. What of knowledge and indeed the concept of the commons?	13
2.3. From analog to digital.	14
2.4. User–producer: civil society enters the knowledge production system	16
2.4.1. Unauthorized knowledge producers	16
2.4.2. Promoting “lay expertise” and its necessary relationship “with formal expertise”	17

2.5. The interactions between the various spheres of knowledge production	18
2.5.1. A form of competition	18
2.6. Collaboration between society and knowledge: producing authorities should be put into perspective	20

**Chapter 3. The Dual Relationship between
the User and the Developer** 23

3.1. Legal arrangements for knowledge-sharing using development platforms	23
3.1.1. Controlled development through Open Access	23
3.1.2. The emergence of a common market for structured research	25
3.2. The user contributes to the creation and development of content process	25
3.2.1. The user in the creative process	25
3.2.2. The user in the development process	26

**Chapter 4. Researchers' Uses and Needs
for Scientific and Technical Information** 29

4.1. The CNRS survey	29
4.1.1. The 10 CNRS institutes	30
4.2. Diverse uses and dual needs	31
4.3. An explanation through differentiated scientific analysis	33

Chapter 5. New Tools for Knowledge Capture 37

5.1. The growth of metadata exploitation	37
5.1.1. The growth of the use of metadata	37
5.2. Are we moving toward a semantic Web?	38
5.2.1. Definition	38
5.2.2. Web evolution	39
5.3. Tools and limits for metadata processing	39
5.3.1. Tools being developed	39
5.3.2. Capturing metadata	40
5.3.3. Classification of metadata	40
5.4. The challenges of the semantic Web	40
5.4.1. The main technical difficulties	40
5.4.2. Data ranking	41

Chapter 6. Modes of Knowledge Sharing and Technologies	43
6.1. Data storage technologies and access allowing knowledge sharing	43
6.1.1. Databases.	43
6.2. Exchange platforms and catalogs	44
6.3. Knowledge-processing and digital editions	45
Part 2. Sharing Mechanisms: Knowledge Sharing and the Knowledge-based Economy	47
Chapter 7. Business Model for Scientific Publication	49
7.1. The current economic model is changing so as to adapt to new conditions for knowledge sharing	49
7.1.1. A former model currently under discussion	49
7.1.2. A model changed drastically by the presence of NICTs	51
7.2. Creation of a new model	51
7.2.1. Toward a so-called “open process”?	51
7.2.2. Moving toward open access.	52
7.3. The issues raised by the creation of a new economic model	52
7.3.1. Appearance of a digital halo	52
7.4. A new economic model struggling to fine its niche	54
Chapter 8. Actor Strategy: International Scientific Publishing, Services with High Added Value and Research Communities	57
8.1. Publishing, editing and existing: live issues within the publication of Scientific and Technical Information (STI)	58
8.1.1. Publishers’ sources of power	58
8.2. Who is subject to it? The other players in scientific publishing	59
8.3. The characteristics of SMS (Science of Man and Society)	60
8.3.1. The national character of SMSs	61
8.3.2. The specific temporality and profitability of SMSs	61
8.4. Existing without publishing? New STI directions	62
8.4.1. New STI tools	62
8.5. Alternatives to scientific publishing	63

Chapter 9. New Approaches to Scientific Production	67
9.1. New means of access to scientific production: innovative models.	67
9.1.1. In favor of optimizing publication and scientific collaboration	67
9.1.2. Moving toward open peer review with greater transparency and quality	70
9.2. Two main objectives: accelerating knowledge sharing and promoting scientific collaboration.	71
9.2.1. Accelerating knowledge sharing	71
9.2.2. Promoting scientific collaboration: academic social networks	71
9.3. The need for new analytical tools and the risk of reprivatization of scientific knowledge.	72
9.3.1. Increase in data and the weakness of indicators: the need for new analytical tools	72
9.3.2. The need for new analytical tools	73
9.4. The absence of the usage doctrine and the risk of reprivatization of science: the case of social networks	74
9.4.1. Academic social networks and major publishing houses: are they undergoing the same struggle?.	74
9.4.2. The risk of a loss of benchmarks	74
Chapter 10. The Geopolitics of Science	77
10.1. National convergent research models.	78
10.1.1. The United States and sector interpenetration	78
10.1.2. China: a hybrid model	80
10.2. Science is a source of international cooperation	81
10.2.1. The European Union: a laboratory for joint scientific projects	81
10.3. International scientific cooperation is accelerating	84
Chapter 11. Copyright Serving the Market	85
Part 3. Enhancement Knowledge Rights and Public Policies in the Wake of Digital Technology	89
Chapter 12. Legal Protection of Scientific Research Results in the Humanities and Social Sciences	91
12.1. Different legal protections for different kinds of science	91
12.2. Why protect?	92

12.3. How to protect	93
12.3.1. French law	93
12.3.2. Foreign law	95
12.3.3. The practical system	97
12.4. Protect against whom?	98
12.5. Changing the challenges of Internet protection	99
12.6. Legal obstacles related to the author's right	100
Chapter 13. Development of Knowledge and Public Policies	103
13.1. Knowledge enhancement concerns everyone	104
13.1.1. An issue in the common interest	104
13.1.2. Multiple actors	105
13.2. What are the public policies for enhancing knowledge?	105
13.2.1. The legal frameworks	105
13.2.2. Knowledge enhancement also occurs by allocating funding	106
13.3. State establishment of connections between actors: a key tool in knowledge enhancement	107
13.3.1. Incubators	108
13.3.2. Competitiveness centers	108
13.4. Comparing the United States and the European Union	109
13.4.1. European Union policy	109
13.4.2. American policy	110
Chapter 14. From Author to Enhancer	111
14.1. Enhancing scientific research is a complex process	112
14.1.1. Knowledge enhancement may take several forms depending on the objective pursued	112
14.1.2. Authors and enhancers are actors in a process which is divided into several stages	112
14.2. Scientific research enhancement follows a legislative framework intended to promote innovation	114
14.2.1. Public enhancement policies truly came into being in the aftermath of the World War II	114
14.2.2. The State attempts to stimulate technology transfers by establishing a specific legislative framework	115

Chapter 15. The Right to Knowledge: Moving Toward a Universal Law?	117
15.1. Unclear regulatory frameworks	118
15.1.1. The Internet, a privileged space for soft law expression.	118
15.1.2. Setting up international institutional frameworks: the case of data protection	119
15.2. Developing legal frameworks related to the Internet is complicated.	121
15.2.1. The historic development of the Internet occurred without the support of a clear legal framework	121
15.2.2. Moving toward an extraterritorial approach to standards?.	122
15.3. Proposals for developing legal frameworks for the Internet	123
15.3.1. Proposals which fall within the framework of public or private international law or into new approaches.	123
15.3.2. The absence of Internet territoriality and the obstacles to be overcome	125
Chapter 16. Governing by Algorithm	127
16.1. Statistics that foreshadow algorithms	128
16.1.1. The gradual development of statistics	128
16.1.2. The appearance of automation	129
16.2. Algorithmic governance and democratic opportunities	130
16.2.1. The importance of algorithms in the decision-making process	130
16.2.2. The democratic importance of algorithms.	131
16.2.3. Moving toward a State platform	131
Chapter 17. Public Data and Science in e-Government	133
17.1. Disseminating data and disseminating science: a new requirement	134
17.1.1. The openness of public data and the dissemination of science: a democratic requirement?	134
17.1.2. An economic and social issue	135
17.1.3. Protecting personal data	136
17.2. Public data in the e-government	137
17.3. Science within e-government	139

Chapter 18. Surveillance, <i>Sousveillance</i>, Improper Capturing	141
18.1. The traditional legal framework for information capture	142
18.1.1. Capture regulated by intellectual property law	142
18.1.2. A legal context ill-suited to open science	143
18.2. The clear need for a specific law	145
18.2.1. What is the legal qualification of APIs?	145
18.2.2. Moving toward the creation of an open science law?	146
Chapter 19. Public Knowledge Policies in the Digital Age	149
19.1. GAFA domination and the oligopolization of the market	150
19.2. Isolated digital ecosystems	152
19.3. Regulation through competition law	153
19.4. Data protection: moving toward a law for the digital community	154
Chapter 20. The Politics of Creating Artificial Intelligence	157
20.1. History	158
20.1.1. From joy to “the winter of artificial intelligence”	158
20.1.2. A recurrent failure	159
20.1.3. The “spring of artificial intelligence” rediscovered	159
20.2. Artificial intelligence has become a priority for public and private actors.	160
20.2.1. Mass investment from the private sector	160
20.2.2. Smart content	160
20.2.3. Public actors are aware of the importance of artificial intelligence	161
20.4. The appearance of legal problems	162
Chapter 21. Security Policies in Artificial Intelligence	165
21.1. Security as a comment on machines and data	166
21.1.1. Freedom for machines?	166
21.1.2. How far should we go?	168
21.2. From the security of machines to the security of humans	169
21.2.1. Can machines be made responsible?	170
21.2.2. Data and metadata: where should machines stop?	171

Conclusion	175
Postscript	177
Glossary	179
Bibliography	185
Index	201

Introduction

Nowadays, as in previous times, knowledge is born of out of curiosity, doubt and trial-and-error. However, the process of knowledge management has itself changed profoundly. Due to the Internet, the progress of artificial intelligence, information and communication sciences, information is now more widely shared. Hardly do we start to understand what is happening in this very small community of 2.5 million science publishers, when their results then become both more accessible and better shared by all.

Global sharing, which is a new frontier for knowledge, emerges onto decompartmentalizations never before seen. These involve new ways of doing and seeing things, new logics for “in-depth learning”, which are the crosscutting annual theme of Yann Le Cun’s course. The latter is this year being held at the Collège de France¹, taking the theme *What is the future position for “intelligent machines” ...?*

We may observe that “modern knowledge management issues” are nowadays still partially hidden. However, we can already detect that individual and collective scientific projects are faced with the huge challenges of conception, structure and use. The responses in reaction to these challenges, condition our understanding of the world. Are we actually moving toward a position of greater sharing of knowledge? What are the

1 <http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/yann-lecun/>.

current conditions for such sharing? How is it developing? What is its dynamic?

Regarding these highly evolutionary issues, we have no other ambition than to enable you to share both the fulfillment and interest that we have achieved together as co-authors. As advanced students and lecturers at *SciencesPo*², we have “produced meaning” together, owing to the rich and well-known approach of a “Conference” which has taken place over a period of several months. This is very much due to the collective work, which we have compiled from this organic sharing of experiences and knowledge.

Our exploration finds its meaning in a trial of global intelligence of developments taking place. Hence, the deliberate choice of three large spheres to define the “current knowledge-based issues”; production issues, sharing issues and issues regarding the increase in value of knowledge.

In becoming “digital”, knowledge production has completely changed over the space of a few years. Everyone has an idea of what this change means for their own use of knowledge. We wished to take a step back when thinking about the conditions for digital knowledge production and review all elements of the so-called production “chain”. This involves consideration of what has changed: new stages, new players and new rules. These are therefore as much an opportunity to embark upon a “systemic” analysis of these new value chains. This first stage is obviously necessary for the understanding of the subsequent stage, since it clearly describes “for a given condition of the technology” the various actor organizational models. It is indeed from these constraints and their particular interpretation, that the stakes for both sharing and increased value may be created.

The stakes for knowledge-sharing are vast, complex and dynamic. Their common point is knowledge accessibility. A mirage or a reality? Knowledge-sharing is instantaneous and may take place at a highly reduced

² *SciencesPo* is a *grand école* higher education institution in Paris, whose specialisms include political science.

variable cost and on a very large scale. In the digital era, it is possible to share the conditions for knowledge production, through vast international scientific real-time collaborations, hosted by given platforms. We may also share results, provided that the issues of the sharing economy models and the fair division of value are resolved. Of particular interest is the issue of editorial models, the very old encyclopedic scientific issue, which has been posed, at least since Diderot and his *Lettre sur le commerce des livres*³. It is also from there that we may attribute to it the rules and data-sharing arrangements and the multiple profit analyses, indeed also those which we obtain, and even conceal. In addition, there are of course the global and European development of the rules upon this sharing, in the era of “digital laws”, and the basis of the new “knowledge economy”, which also shapes the modern geopolitics of scientific production.

It is only from there that we can approach the issue of increased value which depends upon the upstream element, and solutions found so as to both produce and share knowledge. Increased value increases our awareness in several directions, in favor of all players. There is increased value of knowledge to the advantage of all users and all beneficiaries of science, through new approaches to open science. This occurs through the organization of controlled innovation capture, in aid of both the economy and industry, through both the broadening and combination of scientific results to meet the needs of society, education, health and social life. These questions make sense in view of the experimentation with new rules, and the law around open science, which is currently in the process of development.

We are obviously aware of the limits of this exercise, which only involved the under-mentioned authors. However, we thought that an overview of these often dispersed issues might make sense. Our justification for producing this collective work is our desire that you might also be persuaded by our arguments.

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³ This translates as “Letter upon the trading of books”.

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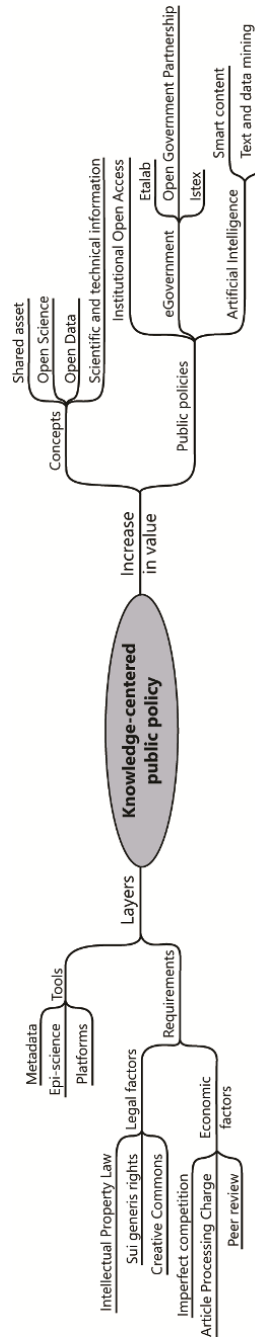


Figure I.1. Heuristic map for evidence-based policies