

# Openness: the Essential Quality of Knowledge



LIBRARIES, OPEN ACCESS AND THE  
COMMONS

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# Open Knowledge



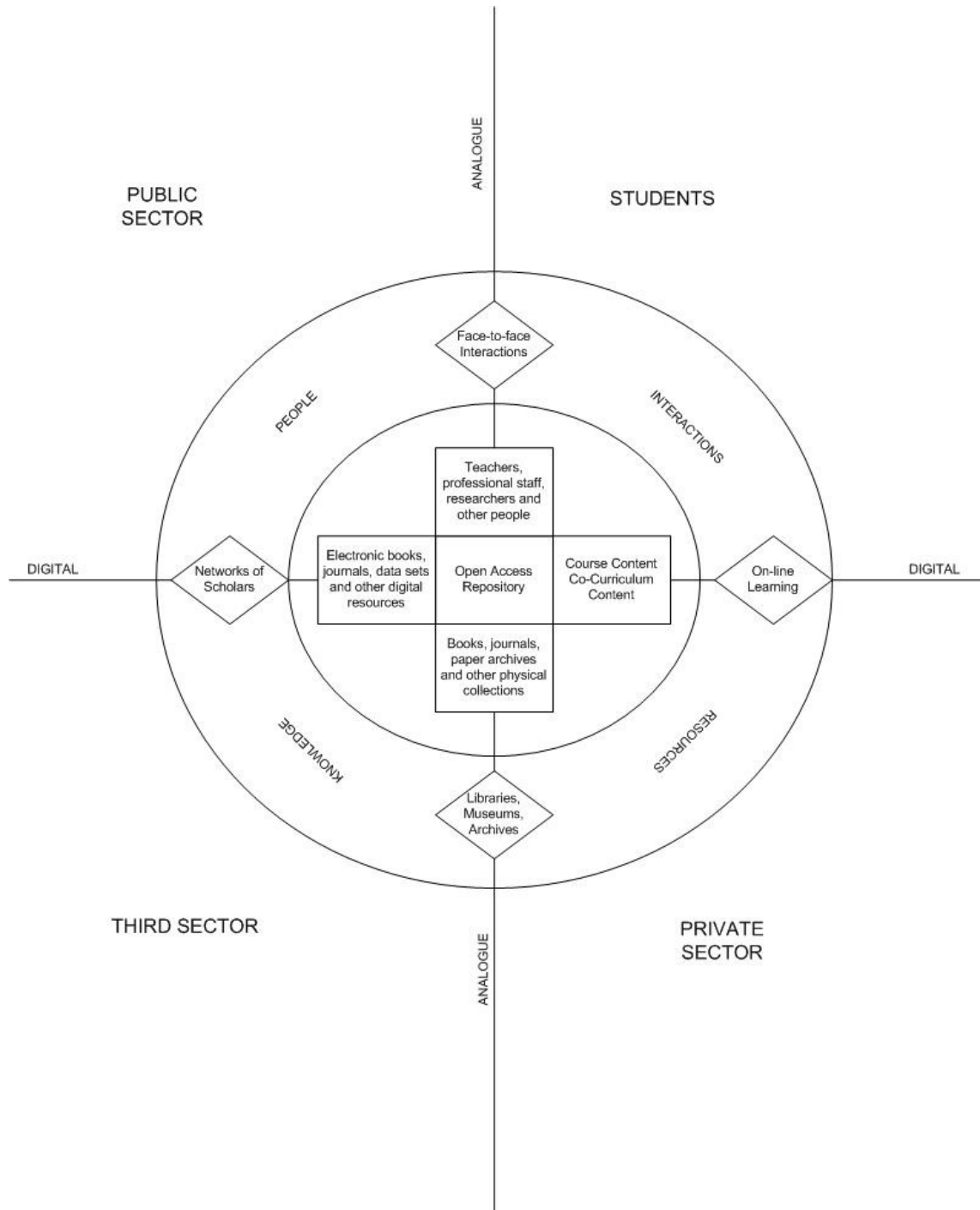
“Systems of knowledge openness relate to public (or semipublic) spaces in which knowledge circulates. Such spaces can include areas in which exclusive property rights cannot be granted, either constitutionally (in the case of open science) or within the framework of organizations specially designed for the purpose (research networks where partners share their knowledge) and markets whose *modi operandi* are conducive to efficient knowledge dissemination. In such circumstances, a fundamental economic issue is the design of private incentives (to give credit to the knowledge producer) without creating exclusivity rights...” (Dominique Foray *Economics of Knowledge* 2004:165).

# Generic Open Access University



- Based on principles of open access, open learning and open innovation
- Core: Open Access Repository with both digital and analogue information
- Intermediary and interpretive structures that “make sense” of the Open Access Repository by organizing an interpreting content
- a node in a wide network of both similar organizations and other kinds of structure. Analogue and digital axes extend outward to join together other “knowledge nodes”, while intermediaries, such as networks of scholars and libraries and archives are parts of other networks.

(with thanks to Eve Gray)



PUBLIC SECTOR

STUDENTS

ANALOGUE

PEOPLE

INTERACTIONS

Face-to-face Interactions

Teachers, professional staff, researchers and other people

Electronic books, journals, data sets and other digital resources

Open Access Repository

Course Content Co-Curriculum Content

On-line Learning

DIGITAL

Networks of Scholars

DIGITAL

KNOWLEDGE

RESOURCES

Libraries, Museums, Archives

THIRD SECTOR

PRIVATE SECTOR

ANALOGUE

# A model for the Edgeless University?



- Looks to the realities of the present: unbounded knowledge, open innovation, collaborative learning
- Recalls pre-digital benefits of a commonwealth of learning
- Founded on the driving force of academic life: giving away knowledge in return for reputational capital