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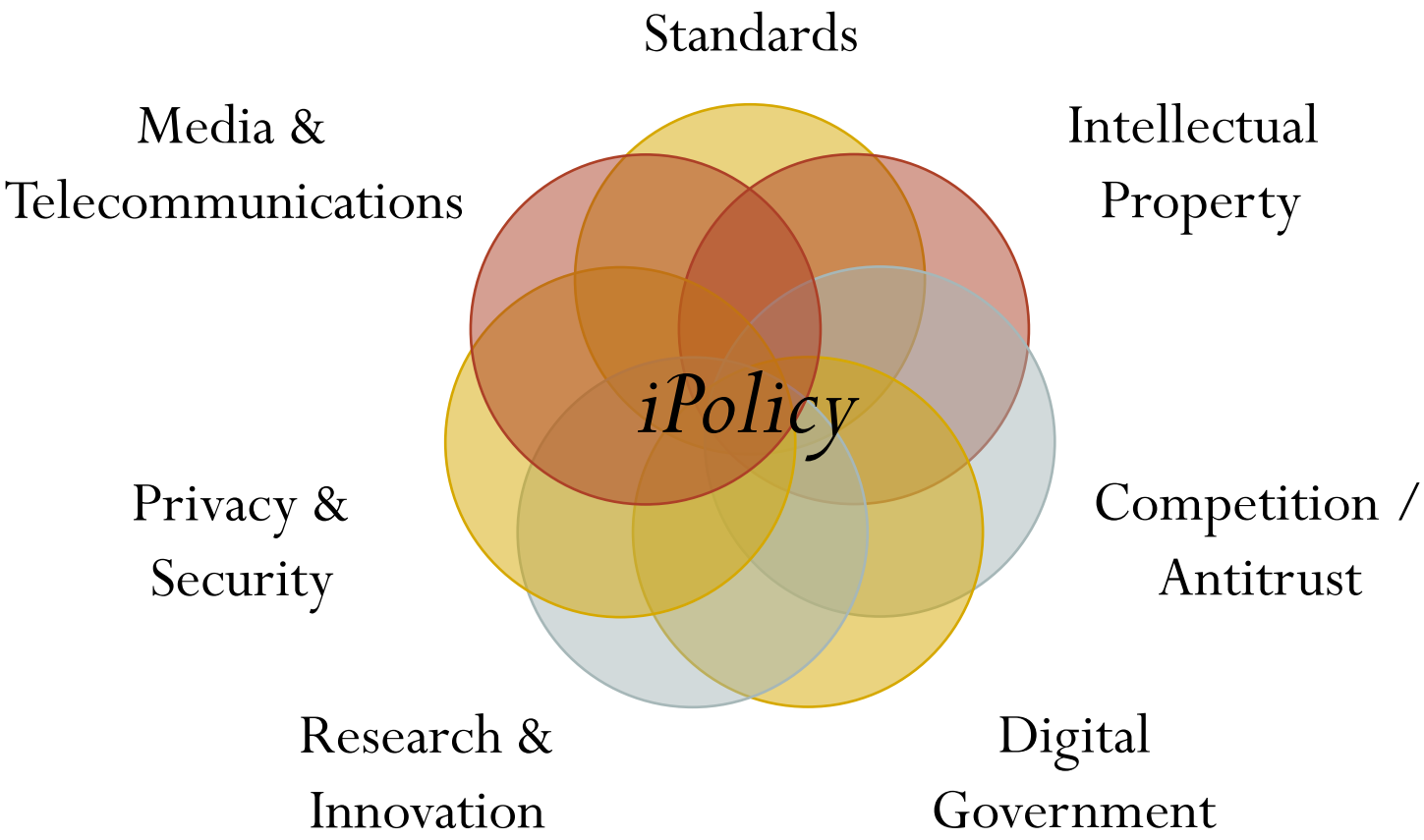
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SI 507: Information Policy Analysis and Design

Wk 1: Introduction and Overview

Information Policy: key areas



Academic / disciplinary traditions:

Law

Economics

Communication

Public policy / public administration

Political science

Social sciences (anthropology, sociology, etc.)

Computer science

Information science

Characteristics as a policy field:

- **dynamic** and **emergent**
- highly **distributed** (across institutions, academic fields, etc.)
- **transgressive** (increasingly constitutive of or driving change in *other* policy domains)

Varieties of *convergence*

- Technical convergence
- Regulatory convergence (e.g. VOIP – to be covered under principles of telephony, or as an "information service"?)
- Corporate convergence (e.g. Comcast as phone company, AT&T as television provider)
- Geographical convergence ("policy harmonization") (e.g. ITU, WIPO, etc.)

Questions of *determinism*...

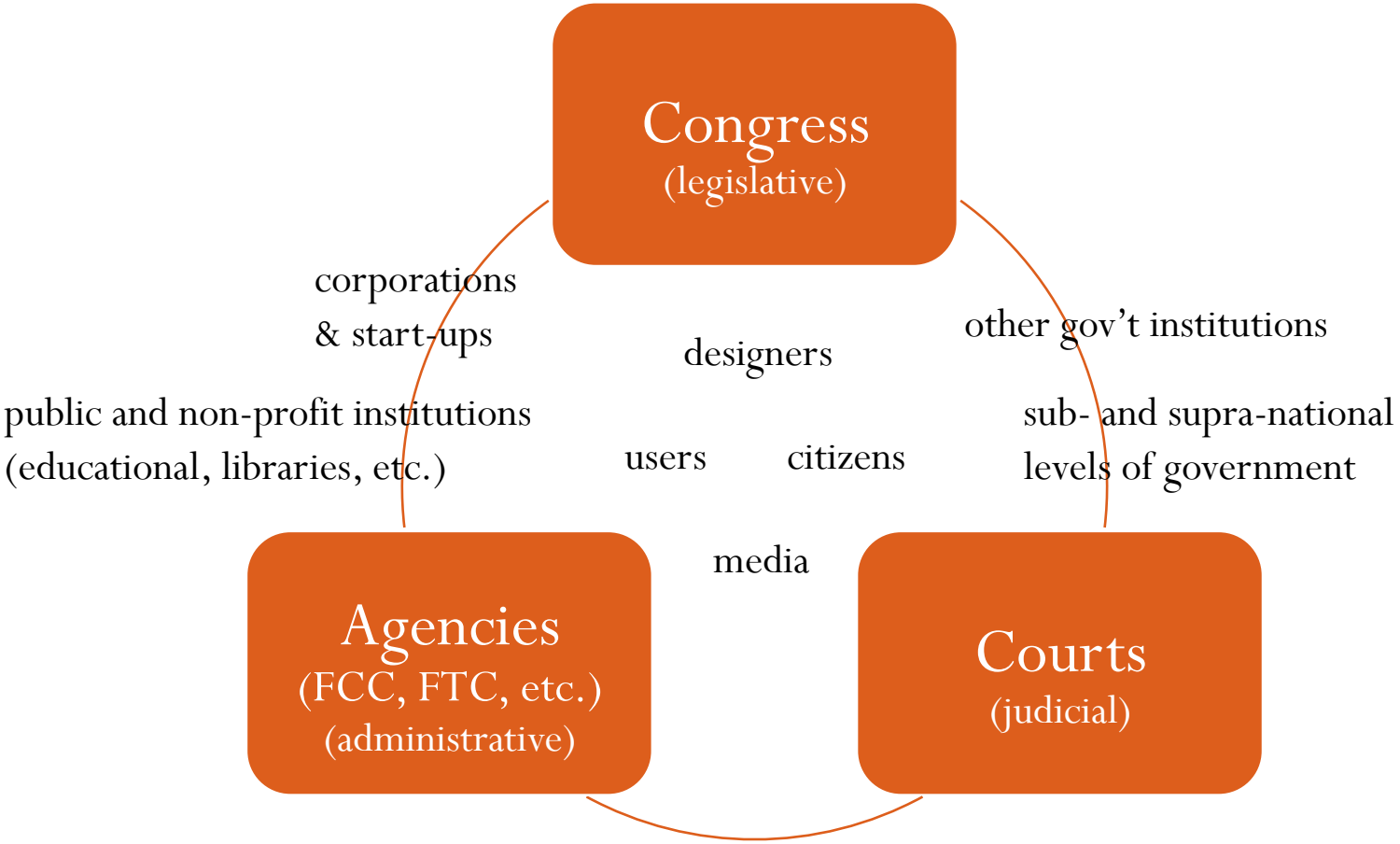


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or, *did* Al Gore invent the Internet?

Policy: proactive, anticipatory, leading change?
Or reactive, obstructive, trailing agents of change necessarily located elsewhere (technology, economy, culture, etc.)?

formal and *informal*...



Challenges of information policy

(emergence, distribution, and transgression)

- Speed of innovation (technical and cultural)
- Legacies and incumbents (regulatory, corporate, etc.)
- Latent, manifest, and invisible policy
- Policy interdependence and precession (policy "spill")
- Cultural/practical embedding of policy
- Accountability, participation, and the public interest