

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/14648.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/14648.001.0001)

Ownership of Knowledge

Beyond Intellectual Property

Edited by: Dagmar Schäfer, Annapurna Mamidipudi, Marius Buning

Citation:

Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond Intellectual Property

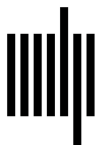
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DOI: 10.7551/mitpress/14648.001.0001

ISBN (electronic): 9780262374644

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 2023



The MIT Press

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book has its origin in a conversational bike ride along Lake Michigan in May 2016, when two of the editors were spending time at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. The bikes were rented and our thoughts easily shared as we stopped frequently to accommodate the pace of one who was not as fit as the other. Our generous host Jacob Eyferth allowed us time to enjoy open-ended conversations with Don Harper, BuYun Chen, Kaijun Chen, Yuhang Li, and Soumhya Venkatesan, among others, and the very enthusiastic group of graduate students we met at the history seminar. Their questions are in this book.

“Strong reasons make strong actions” (Shakespeare, *King John*). Galvanized by the issues raised, we pursued them further in two conferences at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG). The first, in November 2016, probed “Ownership of Knowledge.” The follow-up conference in August 2018 forged a path “Beyond Intellectual Property.” In addition to the authors of this book, conference participants included Martha Buskirk, Hyo Yoon Kang, Alain Pottage, Jérôme Baudry, Graeme Gooday, Stathis Arapostathis, Luca Molà, Catherine Fisk, Berris Charnley, Mario Biagioli, Sean Bottomley, Giorgio Riello, Sarah van Beurden, Jung Lee, and Peng-Sheng Chiu. We thank all of these colleagues for sharing their work and thoughts with us. In 2018, Marius Buning joined the editorial team.

“The deep waters will have their ferry boats and tall mountains have passes that can be crossed” (Sun Wukong, *Journey to the West*)—with knowledgeable guides to show the way. Our guides included Dorothy Ko, Jose Bellido, Véronique Pouillard, Jaya Remond, Hansun Hsiung, Pamela O. Long, Shiv Viswanathan, Sumithra Vasudev, Uzramma, Satish Poludas, Gauri Nori, Ellen Harlizius-Klück, Klaus Staubermann, Christian Götter, Wiebe Bijker, Marianna Szczygielska, Noa Hegesh, Lisa Onaga, Tamar Novick, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, and Chun Xu. Thanks also to the participants of the colloquia of Department III (Artifacts, Action, Knowledge) at the MPIWG between 2018 and 2019, who read and commented on earlier versions of parts of this book, as did independent

translator and researcher Xiujie Wu. The inevitable formalities and practicalities were overcome with the help of Helen Rana and Michael Thomas Taylor, who provided aid that ran the gamut of editing from content to mechanical, together with the Department III editorial staff, Gina Grzimek and Melanie Luise Glienke, supported by librarian Cathleen Paethe, and the student assistants Spencer Forbes, Jing-Shin (Anita) Lin, Paul Kaemmerer, Wiebke Weitzmann, and Yi Zheng. The anonymous reviewers and the editorial board of the Inside Technology series spurred us on to cross the finish line of this challenging project.

Saint Kabir, the fifteenth-century weaver poet of Varanasi, wrote, “I set out in search of red, I became red myself,” telling us that seeking knowledge is a journey inside ourselves. We do not claim ownership of our publication, because insight should not be owned. We do, however, take responsibility for the word we have coined to give this insight space to grow and have an impact in the real world:

kn/own/able.

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Co-funded by the ERC project “Before Copyright: Printing privileges and the politics of knowledge in early modern Europe,” funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



This book was set in Stone Serif and Futura by Westchester Publishing Services.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Schäfer, Dagmar, editor. | Mamidipudi, Annapurna, editor. | Buning, Marius, 1979– editor.

Title: Ownership of knowledge : beyond intellectual property / edited by Dagmar Schäfer, Annapurna Mamidipudi, and Marius Buning.

Description: Cambridge, Massachusetts : The MIT Press, [2023] |

Series: Inside technology | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022038290 (print) | LCCN 2022038291 (ebook) |

ISBN 9780262545594 (paperback) | ISBN 9780262374637 (epub) |

ISBN 9780262374644 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Knowledge management. | Intellectual property.

Classification: LCC HD30.2 .O926 2023 (print) | LCC HD30.2 (ebook) |

DDC 658.4/038—dc23/20220811

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022038290>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022038291>