Highways, Wires and Tubes
Regulation of Communication Networks
(and what it means for archivists)
What + why
Characteristics + examples
Losses + benefits
The public good
Tariffs + import regulations
Digital TV transition
Dispute arbitration
External
- Legislation
- Policy
- Technology
Self-regulation
  > Social norms
  > User expectations
Power
Flow → Broadcast radio
Structure → Post office
Commodity → Telephone system
Flow
Direction
Volume
Speed

[Drawing of a snail and a rabbit]
Broadcast radio
Federal Radio Commission
"public interest, convenience or necessity"
Regulation of flow + Volume through legislation + technology
Structure
Distribution
Standards

- Structure
- Content
- Protocol
US Postal Service
Regulation
  > Rate schedules
  > Privacy
  > Content
Comstock Laws (1873)
“obscene literature + articles of immoral use”
Commodity
Information
Network
  - Consumer
  - Relationships
Penny presses
Three minute pop song
Comedy sketch
Service fee
Self regulation
- Creating connections
- Natural monopoly
Understanding the invisible