

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

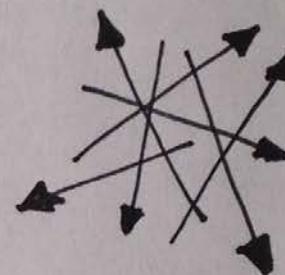
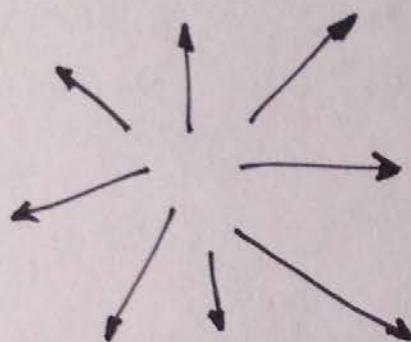
Flow → Broadcast radio

Structure → Post office

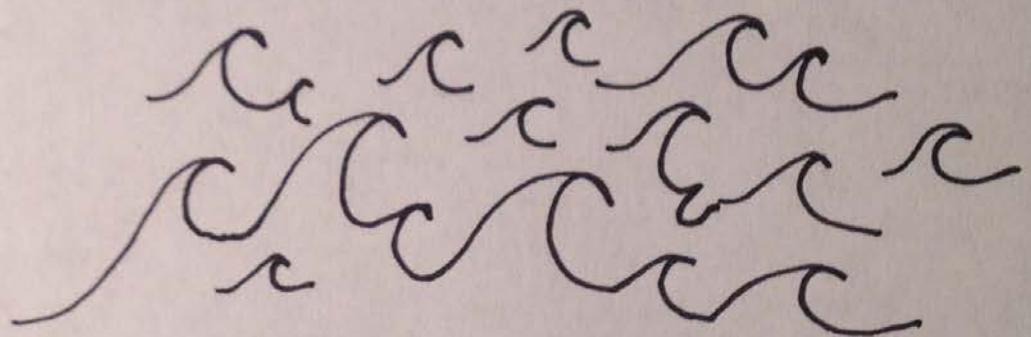
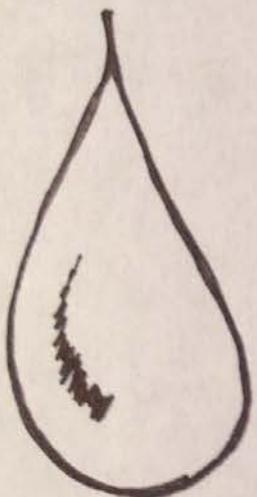
Commodity → Telephone system

Flow

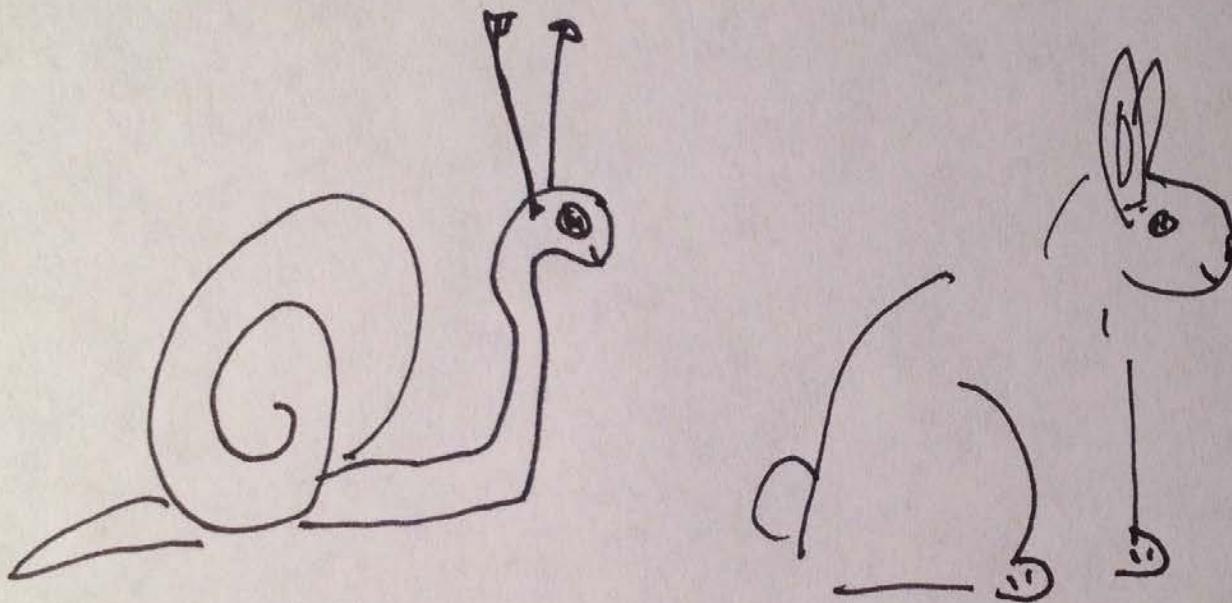
Direction



Volume



Speed



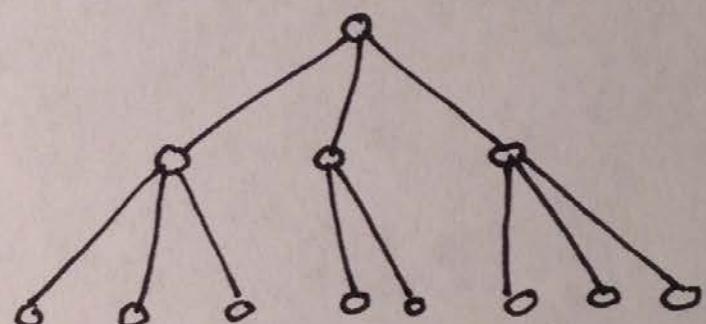
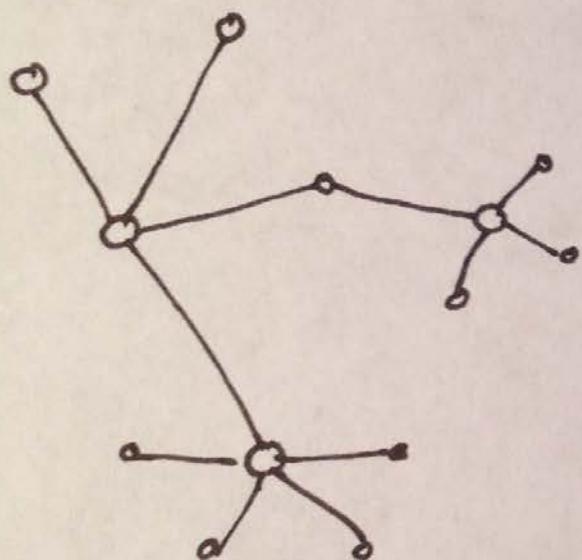
Broadcast radio

Federal Radio Commission
"public interest, convenience or necessity"

Regulation of flow + Volume
through legislation + technology

Structure

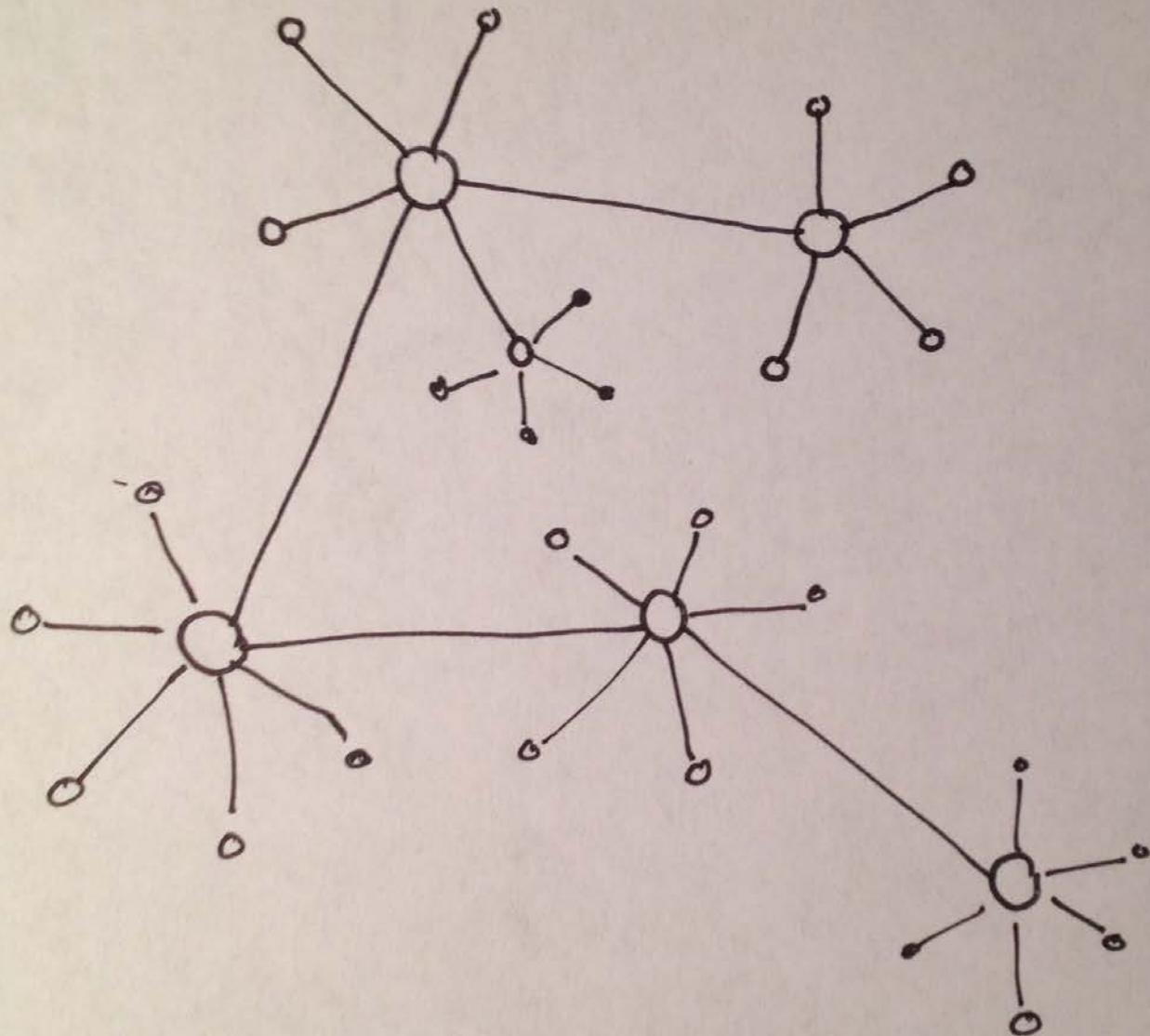
Distribution



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

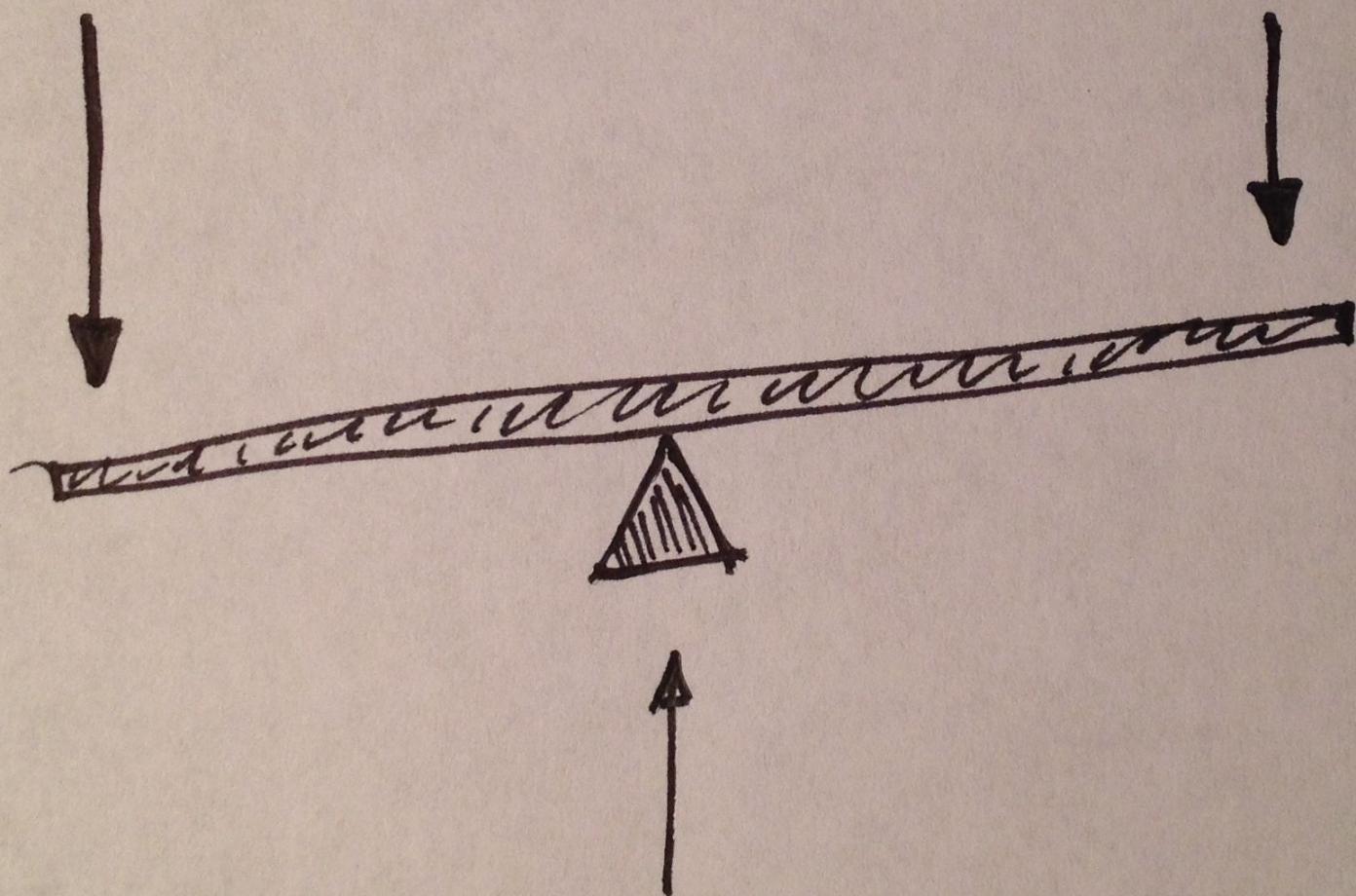
Penny presses

Three minute pop song
Comedy sketch

Service fee

Self regulation

- Creating connections
- Natural monopoly



Understanding the invisible