Plausibly Permanent Syndication

A Circulatory System for the Knowledge Commons

D/acc Human-Aligned Tech Workshop ETH SF 2025



Presentation by
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What is a Knowledge Commons?

“A knowledge commons is a collectively managed resource of knowledge that is accessible to a community or the public.” (OpenCivics)

“The information and knowledge aspect of a community of practice, usually shared with a surrounding community of interest.” (Simon Grant)

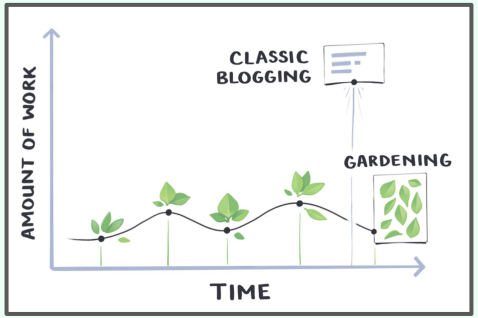
Influences

Zettelkasten



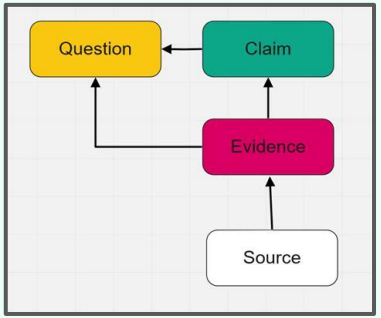
- Analog wiki
- Personal KM
- Surfaces unforeseen connections
- Learn more

Digital Gardens



- Intentional practice
- “Cozy Web”
- Post-enshittifcation blogging
- Learn more

Discourse Graphs



- Provenance
- Epistemic auditability
- Machine-readable
- Learn more

Converging Trends

Semantically rich information architecture

+

Accessible, user-friendly, non-technical

+

Collective creation, curation, syndication

=

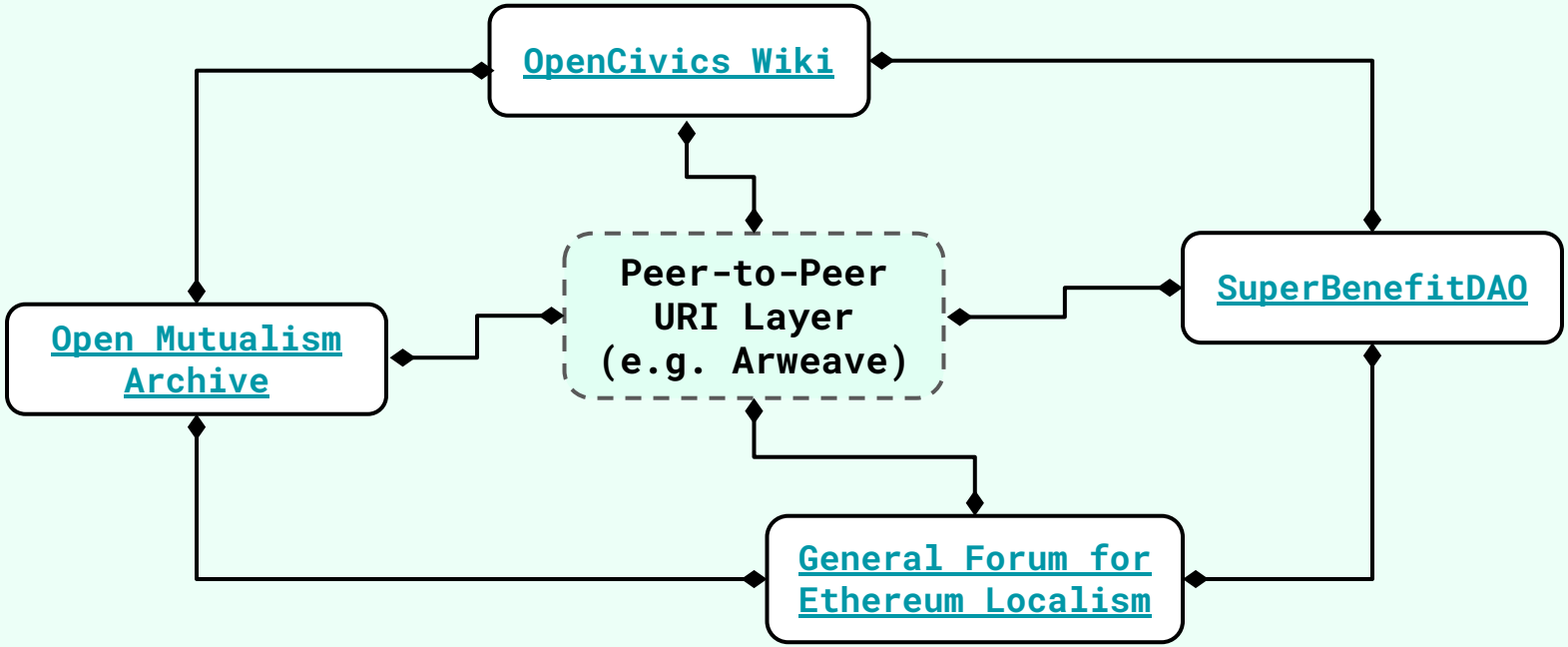
Community Knowledge Base

Example Architecture

- **Obsidian**: For creating and organizing content
- **Quartz**: For publishing the knowledge base as a wiki
- **Arweave**: For long term storage

(...and syndication 👀)

A **knowledge commons** as an ecosystem of *community (and individual) knowledge bases*:

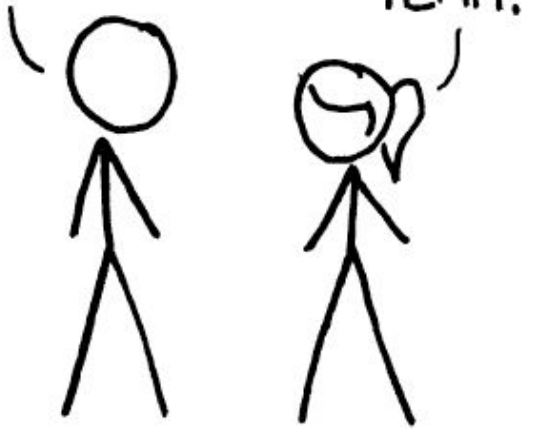


But how to syndicate this content?

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE:
(SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)

SITUATION:
THERE ARE
14 COMPETING
STANDARDS.

14?! RIDICULOUS!
WE NEED TO DEVELOP
ONE UNIVERSAL STANDARD
THAT COVERS EVERYONE'S
USE CASES.



SOON:

SITUATION:
THERE ARE
15 COMPETING
STANDARDS.

How to Syndicate Content

RSS: Really Simple Syndication

- Very well established
- Generally uses traditional central/private servers.
- Client queries .xml files for content updates

Plausibly Permanent Syndication

- A subset/cousin of RSS
- Intended for P2P storage layers like Arweave
- Client queries Arweave for content updates

Plausibly Permanent Syndication

Upload: Alice uploads resource to Arweave (e.g. an essay) and applies properties as tags to the upload (e.g. ‘type: essay’). Tx hash becomes URI for that resource, across knowledge commons.

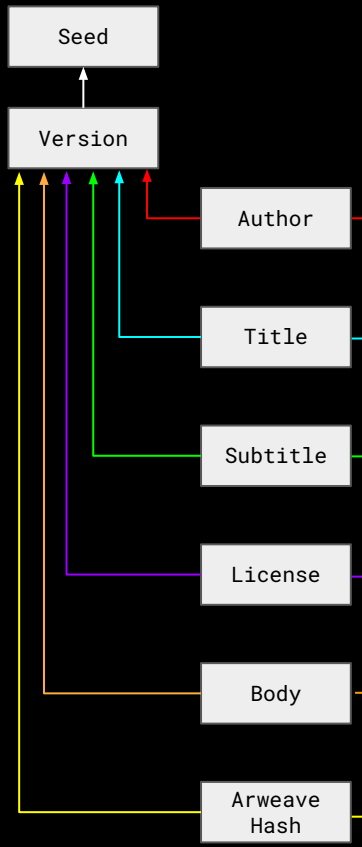
Syndicate: Knowledge bases can “subscribe” to that content via targeted Arweave queries (e.g. query for uploads from Alice, with value ‘essay’ for property ‘type’).

Prototype + Future Work

https://github.com/Clinamenic/Zettelgarten - A fork of the vanilla Quartz repo, with some bells and whistles, including a command line tool for bulk Arweave upload and semantic tagging.

To do:

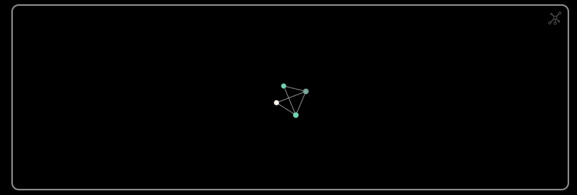
- Make Arweave upload tool more user-friendly.
- **Create Arweave syndication/querying module for Quartz.**
- Combine Quartz with **Arwiki** to host wikis on Arweave?
- Investigate **Penseive** by ECF...
- **Seed Protocol** integration...




```
1  ---
2  author: Spencer Saar Cavanaugh
3  author URL: https://www.clinamenic.com
4  title: Methodological Survey of Onchain Impact Ecosystems
5  subtitle: Preliminary survey of existing practices and
   challenges to inform an ontologically integrated distributed
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8  license: CC BY-SA 4.0
9  sponsor(s): LexDAO, SuperBenefitDAO
10 arweave hash:
11 publish: true
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13 ---
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18
19 I would like to thank the following individuals for their
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   Mashal Waqar of Octant, LauNaMu of Optimism, and Mike
   Natanzon of Abundance Protocol.
20
21 ## Abstract
22
23 The onchain impact economy, which utilizes open-source
   blockchain infrastructure to evaluate and fund public goods,
   has occasioned various methodological breakthroughs which may
   prove instructive to the traditional philanthropic sector. It
   has also encountered various challenges familiar to, and runs
   the risk of repeating some systematic inefficiencies of,
   traditional philanthropy. Various open-source protocols
   exist, or are actively being developed, to: administer
   onchain grant programs; configure and issue onchain
   certificates of impact; publish claims and attestations to
   build onchain trust networks; and retroactively fund public
   goods via protocol-based fiscal systems. These functions are
   developed as distinct softwares, but with the intention of
   being combined into multi-functional open-source assemblages
```

Methodological Survey of Onchain Impact Ecosystems

By Spencer Saar Cavanaugh



Acknowledgments

The following research was conducted for LexDAO by Spencer Saar Cavanaugh of Clinamenic LLC. Funding for this research was provided by LexDAO and SuperBenefitDAO.

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[...]

in various paid and unpaid capacities.

If you would like to consult with Clinamenic LLC or commission research similar in nature to this report, please reach out to ssc@clinamenic.com with your inquiry.

Footnotes

1. For example, grantees included in Gitcoin's quadratic funding rounds tend to participate in public panels, such as Twitter spaces, intended to cross-promote the grantees' projects and to more generally promote the development of the Gitcoin ecosystem.

Backlinks

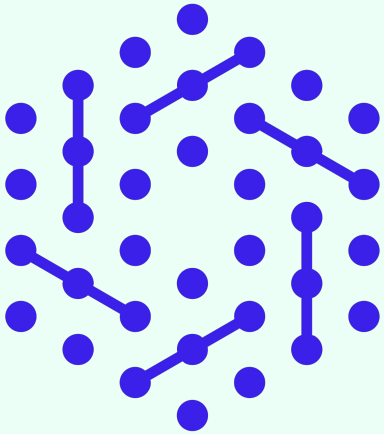
Log 08.25.24 - Notes on active discursive efforts

Zettelgarten Index

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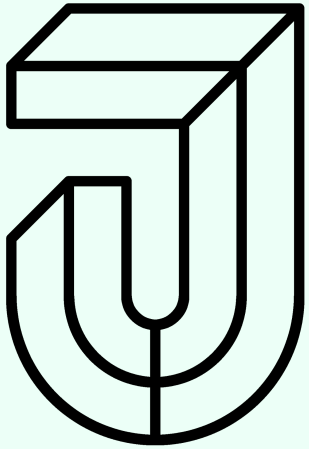
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