



Opening up for open**learn**

Andreia Santos, Patrick McAndrew and
Steve Godwin



Open Content Initiative: openlearn

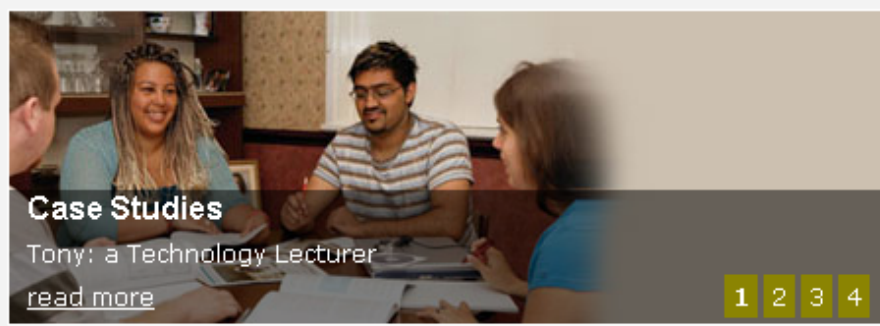
- \$10m+ two year programme
 - supported by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Strands
 - Academic
 - Technical: Production
 - Technical: Tools
 - Research and Evaluation



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Case Studies

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openlearners say...

“ I think Openlearn is a superb concept. I find the project exciting in a practical, philosophical and theoretical way!

Rachel MacDermot, Children's Workforce Learning Network ”

spotLight on: [William Wilberforce](#)

March 2007 marks two hundred years since a Parliamentary Bill was passed to abolish the slave trade in the then British Empire, but how much do you know about William Wilberforce? [Read more...](#)

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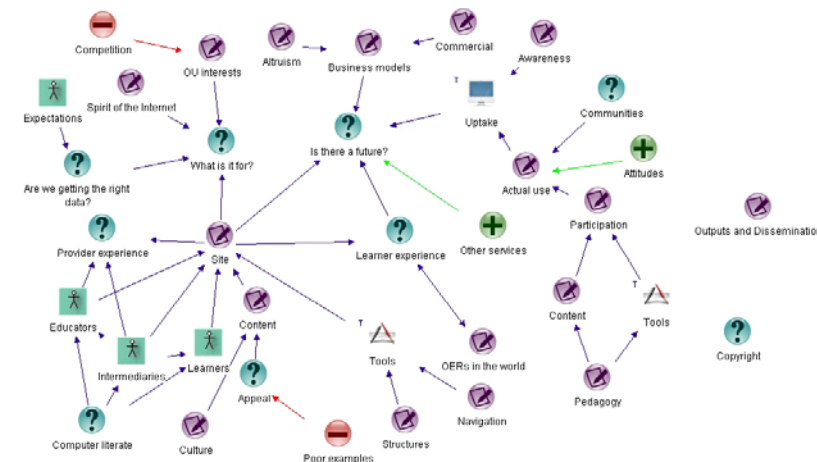
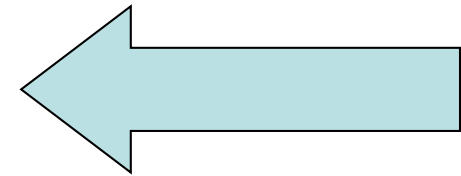
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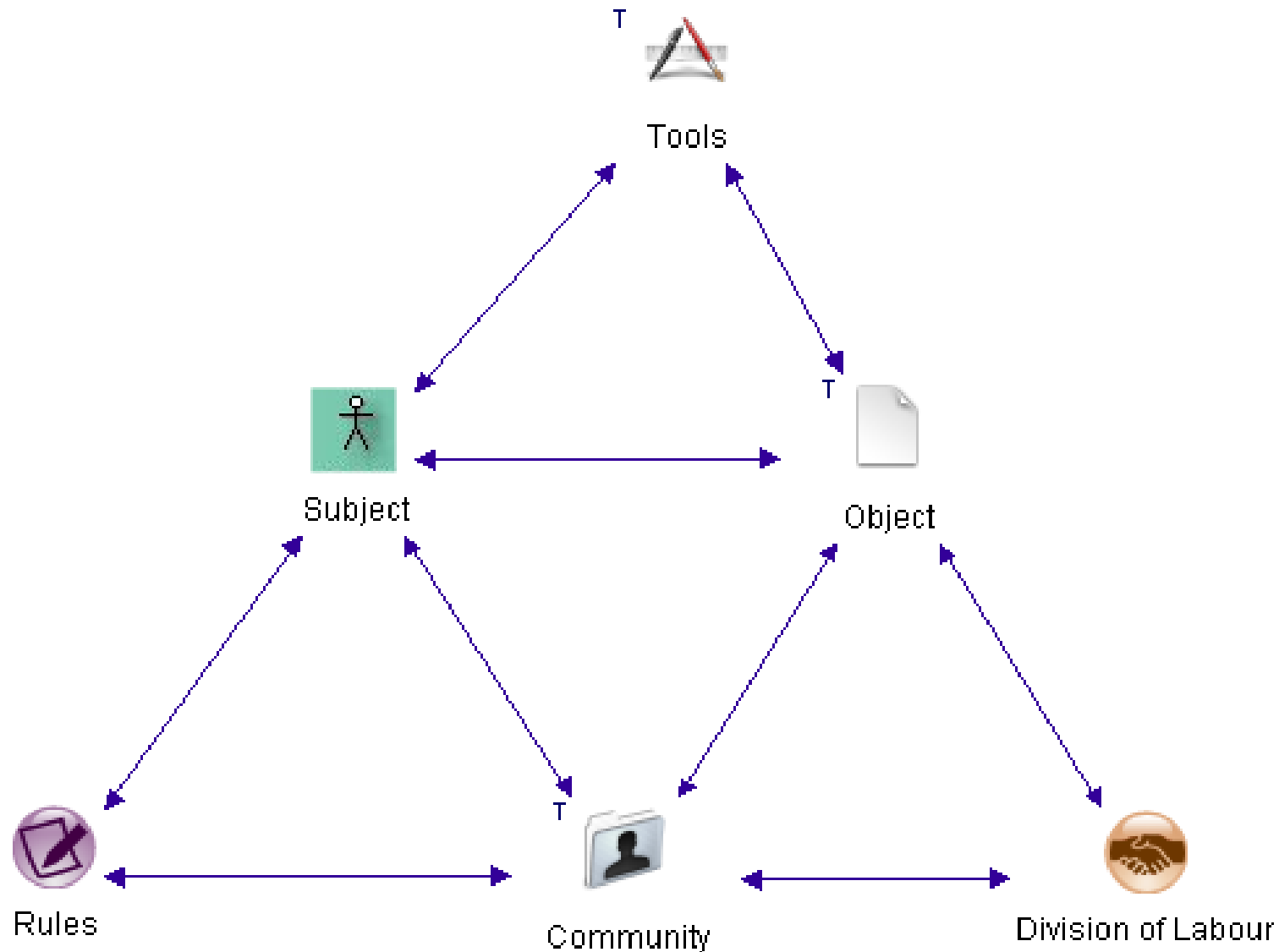
openlearn research



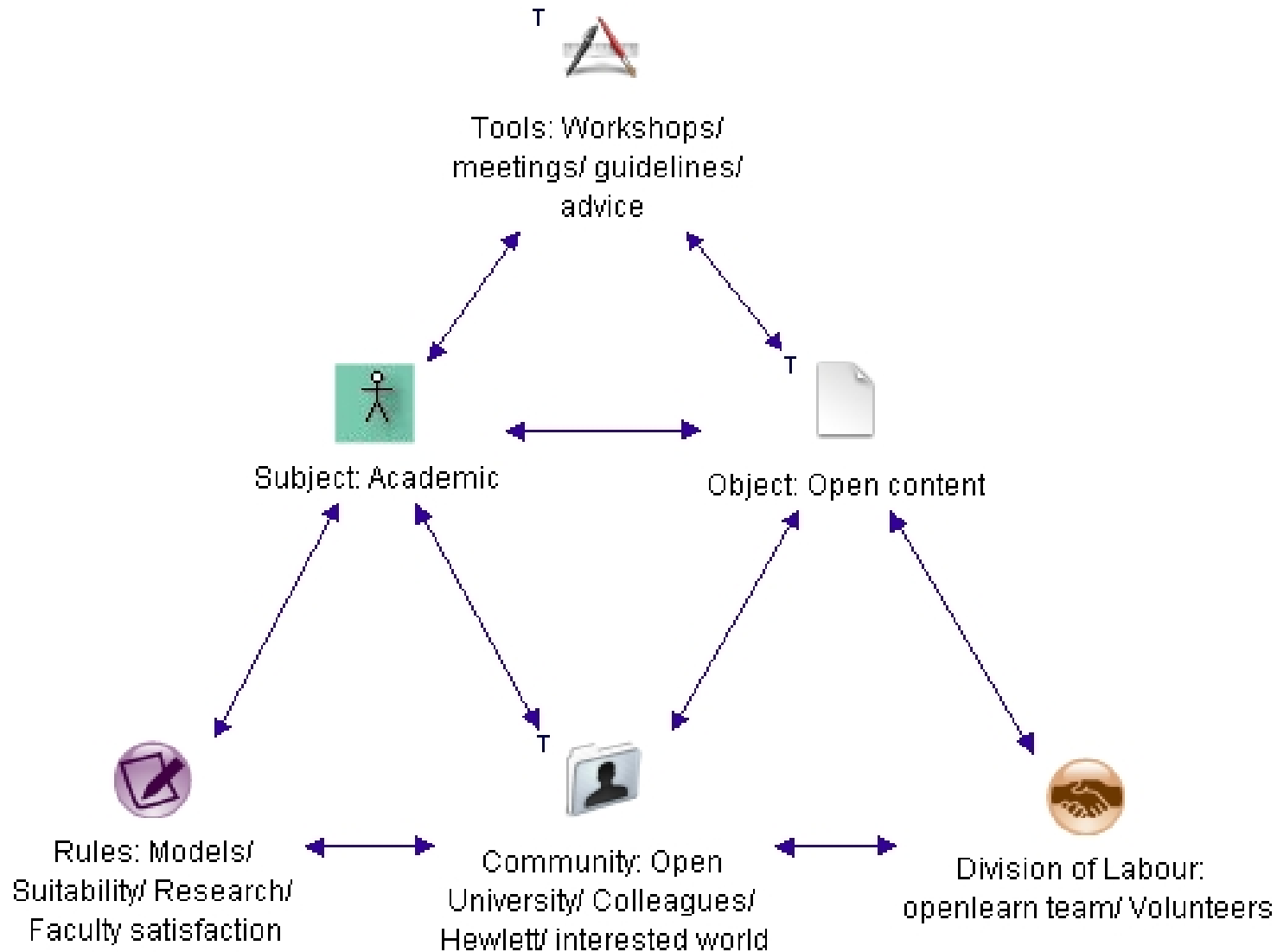
- Producing:
 - How to transform for open content?
 - What tools do we need?
 - Can we bring in content from the world?
 - Do we give new life to things the world values?
- Learning:
 - Do we have users?
 - Can we reach the world?
 - What do they do?
 - Does anyone learn anything?



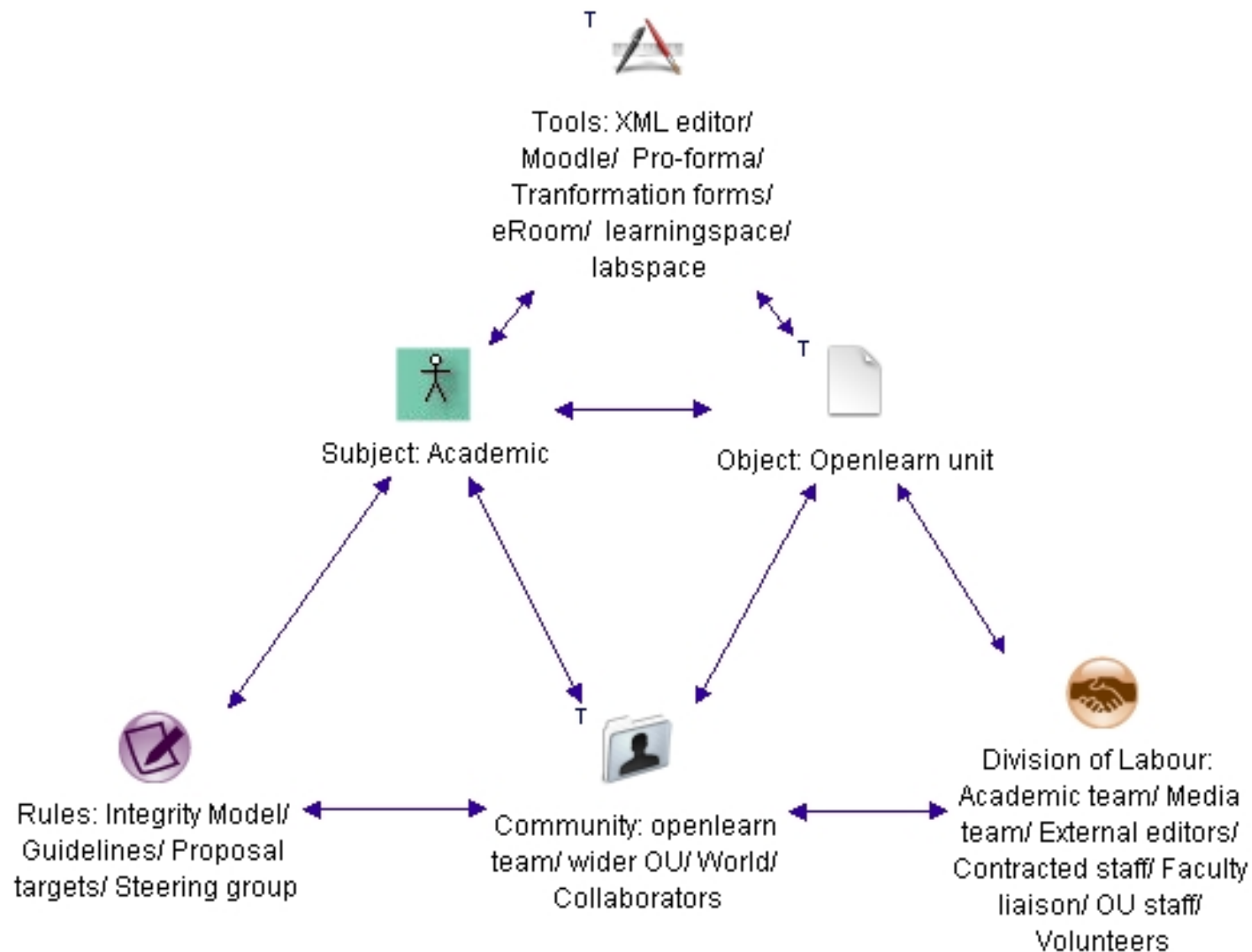
Activity system (Engeström)



Design view



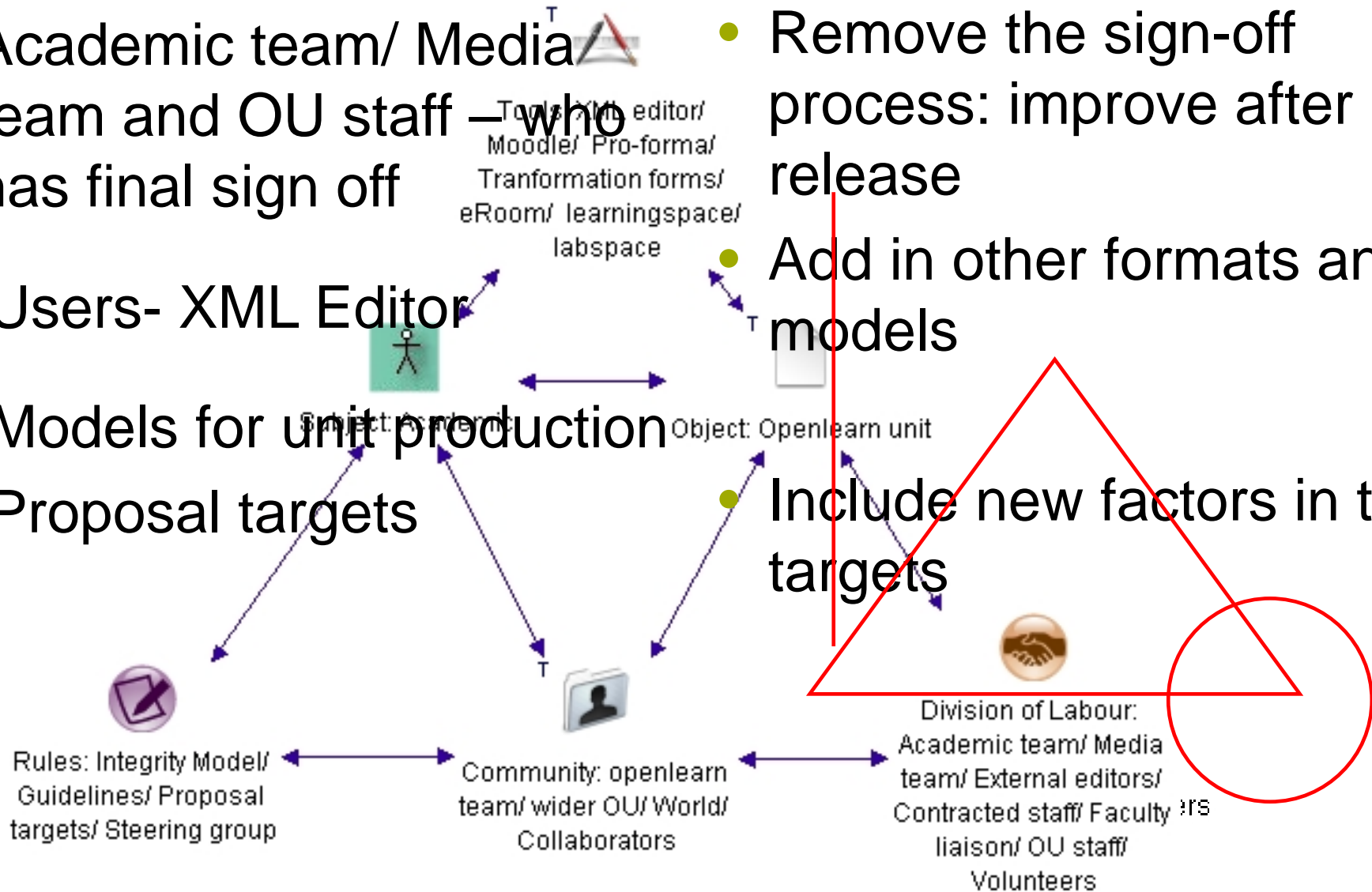
Implementation view



Analysed producer contradictions



- Academic team/ Media team and OU staff – who has final sign off
- Users- XML Editor
- Models for unit production
- Proposal targets
- Remove the sign-off process: improve after release
- Add in other formats and models
- Include new factors in the targets





Does the analysis help?

- Behind the scenes: based on observation
- Presentation tool to others: feedback and refinement
- Method for recording factors: neutral view
- Applied in other situations and projects
- Remains to be validated for this case

openlearn research



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How we will work with others

- Collaboration with Brazil:
 - ⇒ translation of openlearn units
 - ⇒ cross-cultural issues (context, language, institutional discourses and policies)
 - ⇒ Two phases: implementation 1 and 2
 - ⇒ Method: drawing on ethnography and action research
 - ⇒ Disruptive?
 - ⇒ Formal and informal learning



Summary

- ⇒ Activity theory can provide a useful mechanism to understand complex practices within openlearn and help us to identify contradictions;
- ⇒ The challenge for us is to balance applied research (fast feedback) and academic research in order to develop a greater understanding of the field.



Andreia I Santos

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The Open University

Walton Hall

Milton Keynes

MK7 6AA

www.open.ac.uk/openlearn

a.i.santos@open.ac.uk