Remarks on knowledge infrastructures

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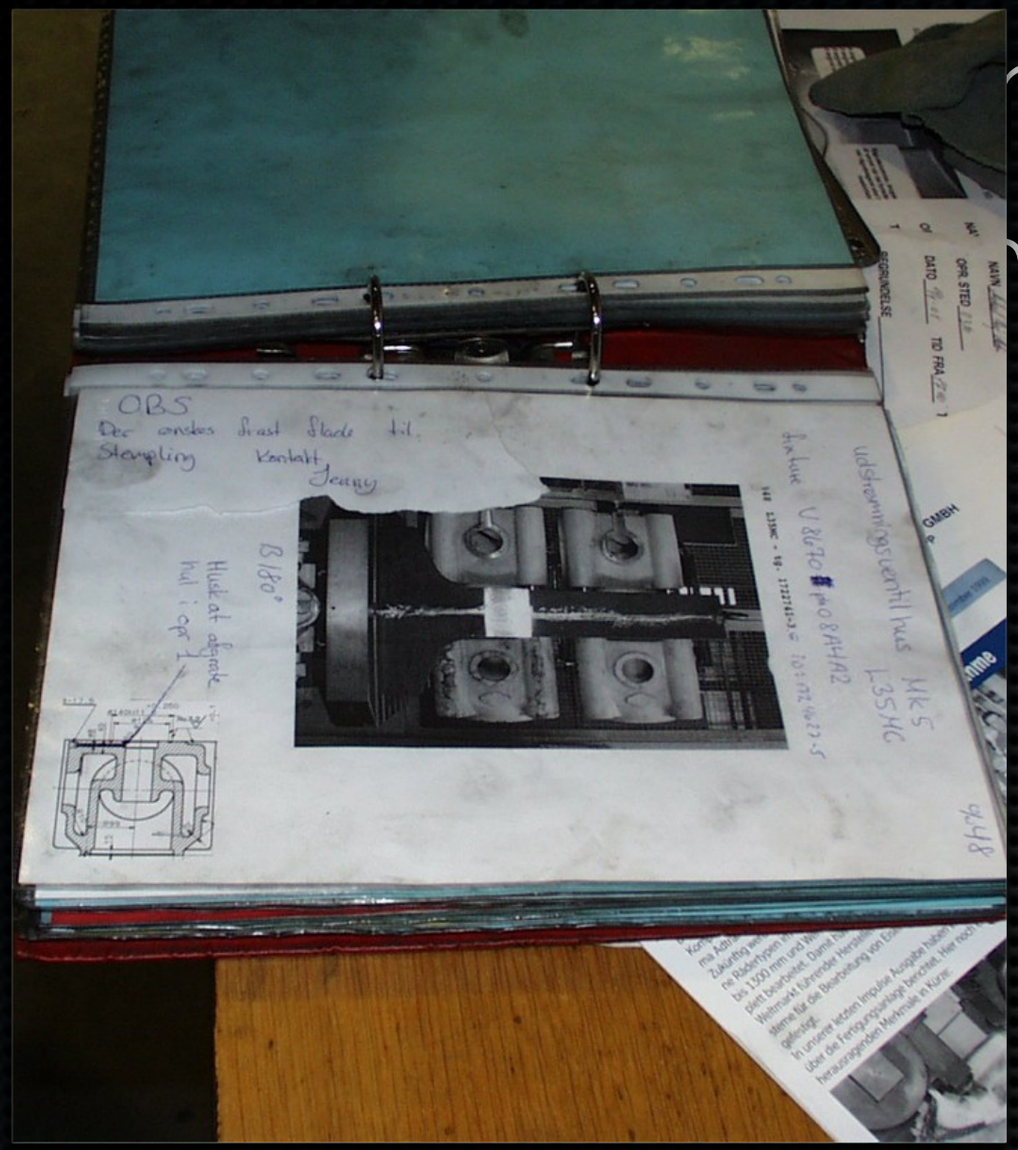

management
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IT-based knowledge management?

- In ordinary work settings, knowledge management systems typically fail
- But in scholarly communities they work fine: ArXiv, Charles Babbage Institute, etc.
  - The Internet and the WWW were built for disciplinary knowledge management practices
  - But, but: Cyberinfrastructures and e-Science? Infrastructures for cross-disciplinary knowledge management practices

Large-scale knowledge management — the example of science

- Ordering schemes: Classification schemes, nomenclatures, notations…
- Ranking schemes: Validity, priority, relevance…
- Sophisticated literate practices: Argumentative prose…
- Format standards (‘genres’)

Research needs

- Systematic studies of how knowledge management practices actually develop — with an interventionist aim
  - Cf. STS and CSCW studies of IT in scientific and other professional practices
- New technologies to support of distributed control and development of schemes, notations, standards

Control of knowledge management infrastructures

- Practitioners' control of principles of ordering and ranking is essential
- Autonomy of scholarly fields (science, technology, medicine, arts)
- Encroachments
  - classification, indexation
  - ranking (bibliometric algorithms 'commercial in confidence'): Web of Science (Thompson ISI), Google Scholar, Elsevier Scopus