Abstract

This thesis investigates the use of Actor Network theory as a potential approach to study Information Infrastructures. Using ANT as ontological foundation to analyse the relation dimensions among actors, the thesis proposes to frame the concept of information infrastructure in action as the proper one to understand the dynamic nature of information infrastructures. This leads us to consider information infrastructures not as stable but performed in, by, and through relations.

Aim of this work is to overcome the limitation associated to the study of existing technologies and infrastructures based on assumptions of stability and manageability. Conceiving infrastructures as performative forces that dynamically evolve, this work supersedes the limitation of studying information infrastructure only looking at what has happened and how has it happened proposing to shed light on what is happening and how it is happening. Standards and information infrastructures are not studied retrospectively to understand how they get shapes but in the process of making. Here we study the action of making information infrastructures rather then the processes that made them.