

# The Information Perspective

Part I

INFO 200



W

antelope



## Information Perspective 1

agenda

- ❖ Buckland & his typology
- ❖ things information can do
- ❖ consensus
- ❖ what can't be information/informing?

information is everywhere

duh

in **work** settings: emails, Slack/Teams, Zoom, presentations, etc

in **home/personal** settings: grocery lists, streaming music/movies/games, genealogy/family history, personal finance, texts, social media, etc

in **school** settings: readings, grades/transcripts, schedules, Canvas (and emails, Slack/Teams, Zoom, presentations, etc)

in **play/recreational** settings: sports analytics, standings, records, etc

why?

and...it's everywhere, but **could it be everything?**

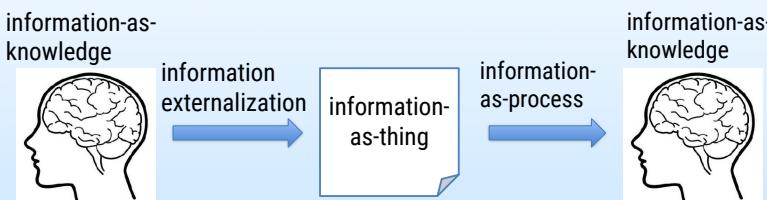
## why is information everywhere?

because it has **value**

because it does **work we need and create it to do**

because **we can't help it**

**and more....**



## Buckland's typology

### Information-as-thing

(noun) data in the form of numbers, characters, records, documents, photos, audio, video, or physical objects; these are what we store and manipulate with information technology

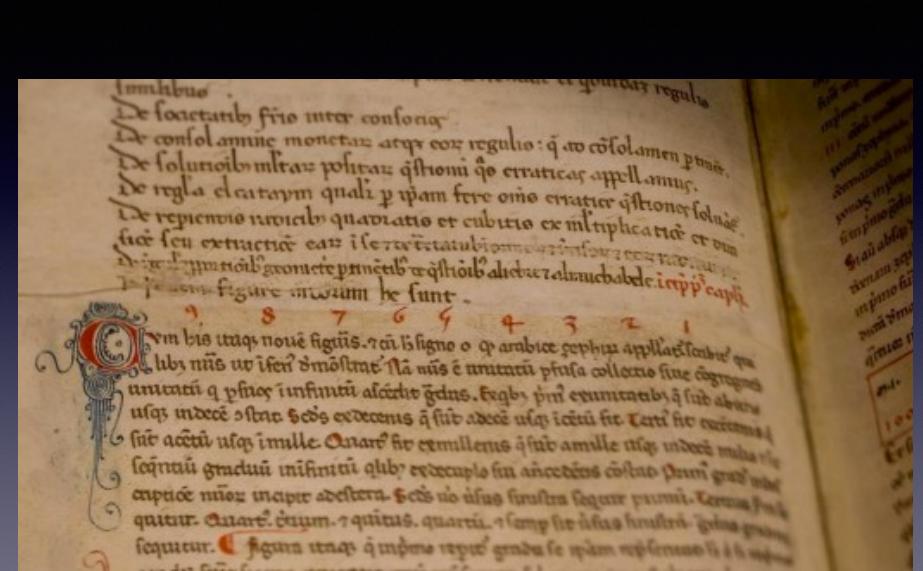
### Information-as-process

(verb) the act of being informed by encountering data that has been turned into something meaningful to the person

### Information-as-knowledge

(noun) the result of information-as-process; the intangible web of concepts and ideas in your own mind, which you can often externalize again into information-as-thing

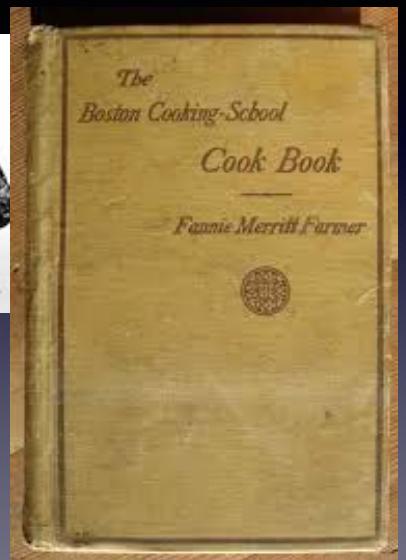
## Liber Abaci 1202



**Quotations of Chairman Mao**  
1964



**Boston Cooking-School Cook Book**  
1896



**Inter Gravissimas**  
1582



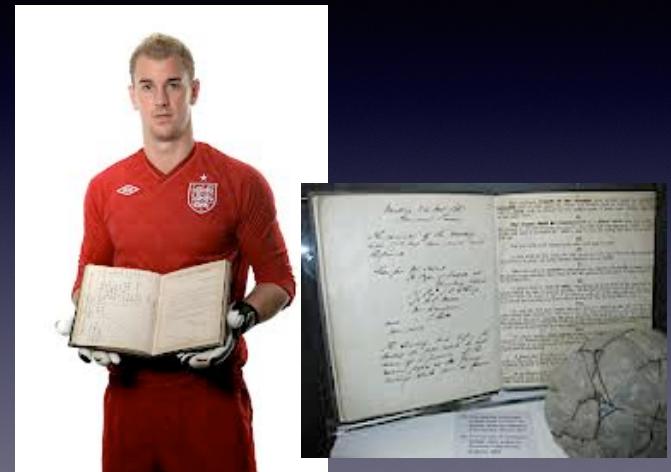
**AIDS Memorial Quilt**  
1987



**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**  
1982



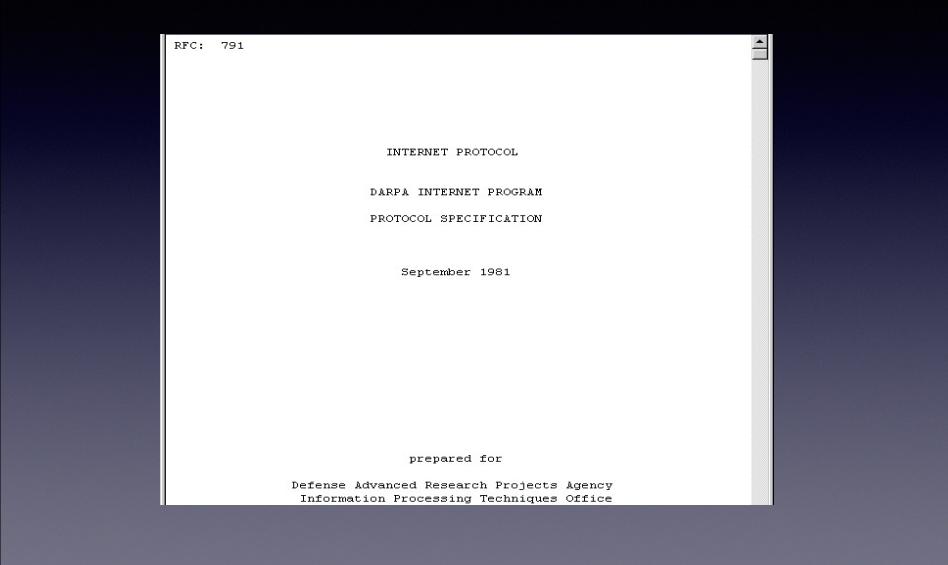
**Rules of Association Football (“Soccer”)**  
1863



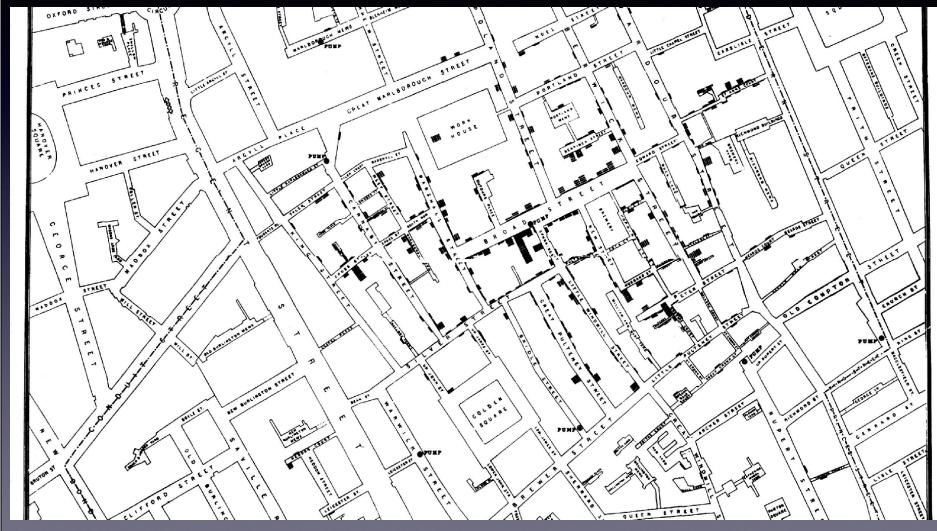
**Treaty of Waitangi/Tiriti o Waitangi**  
1840



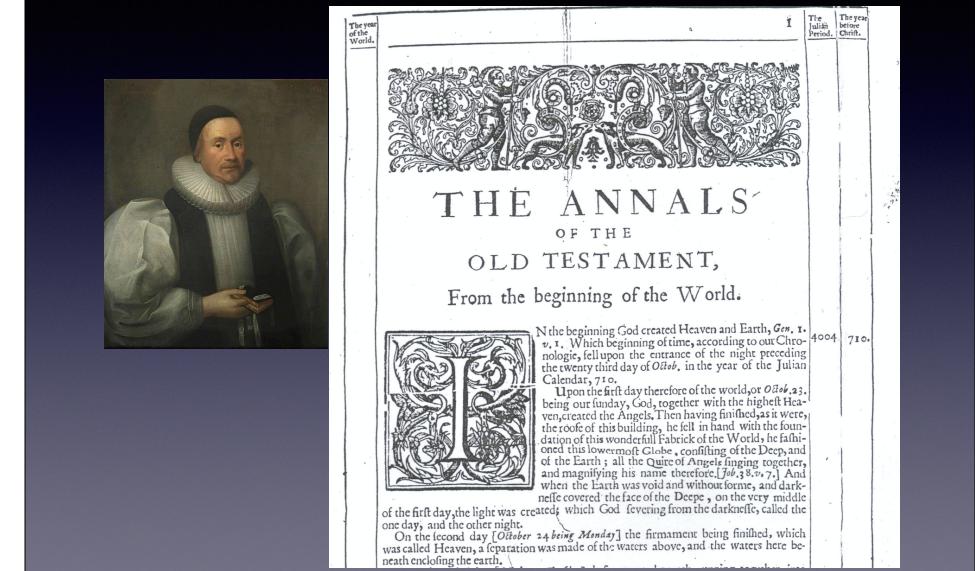
**Internet Protocol (RFC 791)**  
1981



**John Snow's Cholera Map**  
1854



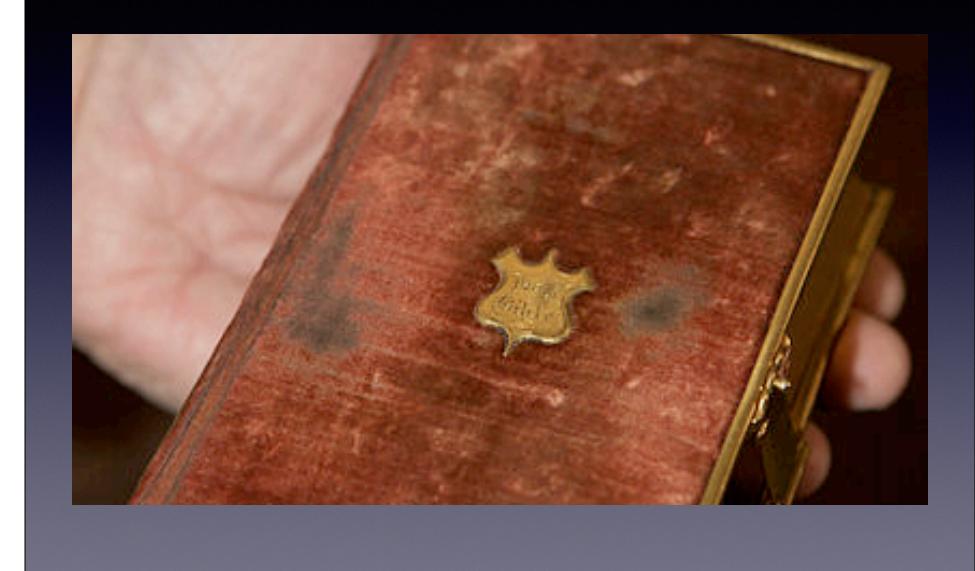
**The Annals of the World**  
1650



**Qu'est-ce que le tiers-état?**  
1789



**Lincoln's first inaugural bible**  
1861 (Bible printed 1853)



“Donation of Constantine”  
prob 8c (750?), known by 778



McCarthy’s “list”  
1950

antelope



and so...?

make the case the antelope **is not** information  
make the case the antelope **is** information  
*situational*

## consensus

things can be informative at a specific time, then they're information  
some things, kinds of things, are informative a lot, often,  
commonplace, so the likelihood that they're usually informative  
at any given time, present or future, is pretty high (examples?)  
for those, we have a general (societal, cultural) **consensus** that they  
are "information"  
...which is why the antelope seems peculiar

## other things that can be informing

events

cf. *representations* of events (recordings...which are *things*)

smells

screams of terror

## what can't be information?

Buckland 356: "**we are unable to say confidently of anything that it could not be information.**"

... "if everything is information, then being information is nothing special." (I disagree)