

Social network analysis of the music industry: from barrel organ To Youtube

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Abstract

The music recording industry exhibited minimal, slow, gradual change in the first century. The last fifty years has shown a more rapid acceleration paralleling the quickening technological change. The music recording industry exhibited minimal, slow, gradual change in the first century. The last fifty years has shown a more rapid acceleration paralleling the quickening technological change. This paper will employ traditional historical analysis amplified and enhanced by Social Network Analysis (SNA) to identify and highlight the important linkages among technological developments in the global music industry. All Social Network Analysis graphics have been derived using the SNA open source software ORA designed by Kathleen M. Carley , copyright 2001-2009, Center for Computational Analysis of Social and Organizational Systems (COPAS), School of Computer Science, Carnegie-Mellon University.

Keywords: Social Network Analysis, Music, Recording Industry, Music Technology, Digital Technology

Introduction

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Music Reproduction Technology Development: 1877 TO 2010

For the past 133 years, there has been a constant technological development of music reproduction. Technology has shifted from analog to digital sound recording. Over the past century, music recording and playback has developed from Thomas Edison's 1877 tin cylinder speaking-recording tubular phonograph, Emil Berliner's 1887 flat disk playback-only gramophone, the Victrola, 33 1/3, 45, 78 shellac then vinyl records, reel-to-reel, 8-track, and cassette tapes, compact disk, DAT, and MP3. (Coleman, 2005, p. *xix*)

The technological changes also coincided with a battle between artists, record companies, and consumers over the payment distribution for listening to recorded sound. Paul Israel stated that Edison failed to capitalize on his invention in the long run because he did not recognize how vitally important the quality of the artists and not just the technology were. (Coleman, 2005, p. 10)

This growth of technology is not necessarily an improvement in sound quality. The “good-enough” consumer principle overrules excellence if ease of use is also considered.

Let us consider the approaches of several musicians as a response to the emerging technological changes in music recording and distribution.

In the past two decades, computer technology has shifted the knowledge capital from the major music producers first to smaller independent producers and finally to the artists themselves. No longer does the culture require artists to be beholden to the larger music studios and distribution networks. Internal costs shifts in high quality CD recording has made it possible for individual musicians to record their own CDs and distribute them via the world wide web. This cost shifting has placed great strain on the “music industry” (major record labels). Large music producers have had to recognize the competition from smaller firms and individual artists. As a result, many contractual concessions have had to be made to artists which were unthinkable thirty years ago when major record producers monopolized music production and distribution. This paper will dissect these cost changes over the past half century and provide illustration of changing contracts and record deals. It will also examine the changing culture of musicians who no longer feel the urgent need to sign a contract under duress with onerous provisions deleterious to their interests.

Social Network Analysis

We have compiled the major changes in the music industry over the past 150 years and incorporated them in the social network analysis model derived from ORA. (Carney 2001-2009) The data for the

model is included in Table 1.

Table 1. Technological Developments Since the Fifteenth Century

ID.	TECHNOLOGY	DATE
1	Barrel Organs	15th century
2	Musical Clocks	1598
3	Barrel Pianos	1805
4	Musical Boxes	1815
5	Telegraph	1832
6	Scott Phonautograph	1856
7	Reis loudspeaker	1861
8	Bell Telephone	1876
9	Berliner Microphone	1876
10	Player Piano	1876
11	Edison Carbon Microphone	1877
12	Edison Cylinder Phonograph	1877
13	Edison Electrostatic Coupling	1885
14	Berliner Lateral-cut disc records	1888
15	Gramophone Disc	1889
16	Popov Radio Receiver	1895
17	Marconi Radio in England	1897
18	Shellac Records Production in Germany	1898
19	Celluloid Records Production	1904
20	De Forest Invents triode making electrical amplification possible	1906
21	Armstrong regenerative circuit in	1914
22	Armstrong superheterodyne receiver	1918
23	Radio Broadcasting	1920
24	Armstrong super-regenerative circuit	1922
25	Marsh pioneered electrical recording	1923
26	Lilienfield First Transistor	1925
27	Standardized LP Value 78 rpm	1925
28	Television Broadcasting	1925
29	Talking Movies	1927

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- 30 TV Broadcast in Germany 1929
- 31 Edison Ends Production 1929
- 32 Beauchamp Electric Guitar 1931
- 33 Armstrong FM Radio 1935
- 34 Magnetophon 1935
- 35 Reeves Pulse code modulation 1937
- 36 Bell Two-Channel Stereo 1937
- 37 Vinyl Records Production 1939
- 38 Surround Sound for movie Fantasia 1940
- 39 Bell digital scrambled speech transmission system SIGSALY 1943
- 40 Hi-Fi 1946
- 41 Fender solid-body electric guitar 1946
- 42 Les Paul Multi-Track Recorder 1948
- 43 Goldmark/Columbia Records released 12-inch LP album 1948
- 44 RCA Victor released the 7 inches 45 rpm single 1949
- 45 Robert Fine single microphone monaural recording technique 1951
- 46 Audio Engineering Society standard playback Hi-fi curve 1951
- 47 Standard RIAA equalization 1952
- 48 Mercury first three-channel stereo recordings 1955
- 49 VCR 1956
- 50 Mattews/Bell digital recording via computer 1957
- 51 First commercial stereo two-channel records 1957
- 52 RCA Tape Cartridge 1958
- 53 Sony first transistorized radio 1960
- 54 Sessler & West electret condenser microphone 1962
- 55 Philips Compact Cassette 1962
- 56 Norelco Carry-Corder 150 recorder/player 1964
- 57 Dolby A noise reduction system 1966
- 58 Digital tape recorder 1967
- 59 Russell first digital-to-optical record-playback system 1970
- 60 Development of quadraphonic records 1971
- 61 Microprocessor 1971
- 62 Denon first 8-track reel to reel digital recorder 1972
- 63 Personal Computers 1975

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- 64 VHS Cassette 1976
 - 65 Sony Walkman 1978
 - 66 Laserdisc 1978
 - 67 Compact Disc 1979
 - 68 Kramer Earliest Digital Audio Player 1979
 - 69 Masuoka Flash Memory 1980
 - 70 Sony First CD Player 1982
 - 71 Yamaha Digital Keyboard 1983
 - 72 Commercial Internet 1988
 - 73 Berners-Lee invents the World Wide Web 1989
 - 74 Digital Radio L-Band 1990
 - 75 Sony Minidisc 1992
 - 76 Webcasting 1993
 - 77 Internet Radio 1994
 - 78 USB 1995
 - 79 MP3 Player 1996
 - 80 DVD and DVD Players 1996
 - 81 iPod 2001
 - 82 Mp3 Player installed in mobile phone 2001
 - 83 Introduction of iTunes 2001
 - 84 Podcasting 2004
 - 85 Youtube 2005
 - 86 Youtube/Vevo 2009
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These eight-six items represent technological developments *per se*. The development of the music industry entails more than technology but how that technology has been used and adapted.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Thomas Edison invented the cylindrical recording machine which was eminently suited to the reproduction of Enrico Caruso's tenor voice. The Carter Family took advantage of enhanced recording capabilities to produce a series of phonograph records which used high power AM radio located just over the U. S. border in Mexico to blanket the USA and Canada between the Rockies and the Apalachians in the evenings during the 1920s and 1930s.

After World War II, Les Paul and Mary Ford produced the first multi-track recordings for which Paul was admitted into the Inventors Hall of Fame. These techniques were further developed in the 1960s with digital recorded Phil Spector's "Wall of Sound". Roger McGuinn started to use the internet and home music recording capabilities in the early 1990s. The Icelandic star, Björk, took these techniques a step further with avant-garde music composition using digitized artificial instruments. The future of these technologies will be analyzed using sophisticated computer Social Network Analysis to predict the role of the major music recording companies vis-a-vis internet piracy and the increasing importance of Apple iTunes.

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