
In this essay, Latour explains how humans perceive and process information in order to stabilize knowledge. He examines how we suddenly became possessors of a more powerful form of knowledge during the scientific revolution in the sixteenth century. He comes to the conclusion that the optimal way we process information is through reading and writing, the production of "immutable mobiles." He notes that laboratory research is all about producing inscriptions. Described in this context, the process of inscription can be both convincing and unconvincing, correct or incorrect, but based on how it is used, can effectively become accepted as truth because of the mobility of such information. Latour describes how such information can be easily translated from one place to another without changing, thus the visualization of such information is vital. Immutable mobiles, as he calls them, facilitates of the proliferation of information through society, greatly expanding the scientific revolution as well as present culture. The printing press is cited as an important example of these immutable mobiles:

"Immutability is ensured by the process of printing many copies; mobility by the number of copies, the paper and the movable type. The links between different places in time and space are completely modified by this fantastic acceleration of immutable mobiles which circulate everywhere and in all directions in Europe." (11)

In our project, we both studied and used immutable mobiles to help us get a better understanding of our endeavor. Prior to beginning work on the house, groups devised plans for its construction, eventually creating posters detailing exactly how to go about timber framing Thoreau's house. These posters were copied and dispersed around the library to help spread the knowledge of our project to the Georgia Tech community at large. In addition we each wrote blogs about how the tools we used affected us, and how we adapted to using them; and these blurbs were posted on a website created for our project. And of course we printed details of each of the timber-framed joints to consult as we cut the timbers. We were truly thinking with both hands and eyes.

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