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. **Copyright for databases and attack on scientific research and freedom of expression**

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Database producers are equally anxious due to the fact that it is possible for virtually anyone to completely copy a database, process. This line of thinking seems initially, at least, quite right, but really consists of an attack to basic human freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information freedom, and exchange of ideas.

When copyright was first established, international law writers took seriously into consideration the freedom of information, trying to balance between personal interests and the interests of society as a whole. Is it possible though, that this delicate balance is now overturned by the technological revolution, which information science has brought upon society today? Database editors and producers both in Europe and the USA are equally anxious due to the fact that, because of the digital revolution, it is possible for virtually anyone to completely copy a database, process or not the contents and afterward proceed to the commercial exploitation of the product, without, of course, paying off any production costs to the initial developers. This line of thinking seems initially, at least, quite right, but really consists of an attack to basic human freedoms, such as freedom of expression, information freedom, and exchange of ideas. Because, ultimately, only someone of a certain financial standing can, legally and safely access information, which become more and more expensive to the end user. Future information creators will have to face this problem as, information products will become more costly to produce.

As a start, the exclusive rights destined to create incentives to information producers or to protect the investments, should only be granted to original works. It should be avoided to create such rights that restrict access to knowledge or information that were previously accessible to the public and no exclusive rights should be granted for mere facts or information. Second, private rights that control the use of information, either created in the matrix of copyright, or outside of it, consist of institutions related to the freedom of speech and expression. And we should wonder why there are people who seek to enforce private rights on information.

Ownership of information is a dimension of information law that allows some people, namely the owners of information, to affect the informational environment of others, which can then use to alter or determine views and behaviours, according to their plans. If and when that happens the ability of the owners to control the lives of others rises, and the self determination fades. Relinquishment of ownership rights on information has created a matrix where some are allowed to control the informational environment of others and finally, control their attitude and choices. Information management policies in our society should see that any person should have the opportunity to live life self sufficiently and fulfil in the highest possible degree the role they wish in society.

Private rights on information restrict scientific progress as well. Scientists will not have the right to reuse and copy DBs in order to create more up-to-date and complete products. Article databases are by far the most useful tool in the hands of scientists. DBs creators will not have the right to collect smaller DBs and unify them in order to create a new DB of increased value. Scientists and researchers will have to search through many DBs in order to detect the necessary information. It is therefore quite possible for them to ignore the existence of some of them and as a result miss essential scientific information that otherwise would promote scientific research and work.

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