



Global Communications Intellectual Property Rights Journalism



**AMERICAN EMBASSY RESOURCE CENTER
OUTREACH SERVICE**

October 2006

IN BRIEF...

Views expressed in the **articles** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

Commercial Sources:

How To...Blog!

As defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a blog is "a Web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer." Lindroth describes ways on how one can keep a blog going.

The Copyright Landscape

Copyright is but one of five principal forms of American intellectual property ("IP") law, a category that includes trademarks, patents, trade secrets, and licenses. Copyright is the law that protects original and creative thoughts, ideas, and concepts that are memorialized in some tangible form or method... The Copyright Act of 1976 is a difficult piece of legislation to navigate and interpret. Understanding the copyright landscape will help information professionals to make better use of the piece of legislation that most affects their daily activities.

Government Sources:

Information Technology Critical in Development, Expert Says

Head of Geekcorps, an NGO, discusses making technology more accessible

Greater use of information technology is the quickest way to boost developing economies, such as those in Africa, technology expert Wayan Vota said in an online discussion October 25.

"Technology is the fastest medium to increase economic outputs of a business or a country," said Vota, director of Geekcorps, a division of International Executive Service Corps (IESC), a not-for-profit economic development firm. "A cell phone is a great leap over no phone or a land line. A computer is much more powerful than a calculator or paper notebooks. And the Internet ... that is a resource we are only beginning to leverage."

U.S. Joins Council of Europe Convention on Computer-Based Crime

The United States is now a party to the Council of Europe (COE) Convention on Cybercrime, the only multilateral treaty that specifically addresses the problem of computer-related crime and electronic evidence gathering, the White House announced September 29.



President Bush signed the instrument of ratification on September 22 and it was deposited at the COE headquarters in Strasbourg, France, on September 29. The convention will enter into force for the United States on January 1, 2007.

Hackers in Singapore look for sensitive information on the Internet (© AP Images)

North Korea Rated World's Worst Violator of Press Freedom

A global press advocacy group says North Korea is the world's biggest violator of press freedom and includes it with Cuba, Iran and Turkmenistan as among the countries that deserve to be called the "worst predators of press freedom."

In its fifth annual World Press Freedom Index, released October 24, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders ranked North Korea at the very bottom of 168 countries listed in the survey. The organization compiled the index by asking various freedom-of-expression organizations, assorted journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists about press freedom in their respective countries.



North Koreans read newspapers at a subway station in Pyongyang. Global press group denounces North Korea as predators of press freedom. (© AP Images)

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Commercial Sources:

High-Tech Terrorism: Al-Qaeda's Use Of New Technology

The author, a counterterrorism research director at the United States Military Academy, introduces readers to the many ways that al-Qaeda is leveraging new technologies to spread its virulent ideology and transform itself into an "organic social movement." By "weaponizing the internet," terrorists are more effectively sharing information, distributing propaganda, and training for future attacks...

Copyrights and Trademarks and Patents! Oh, My!

Intellectual property rights can be valuable assets for insurers, but also can pose potentially significant risks -- not only for willful "me too" infringers who intentionally copy approved forms and filings, but also for innocent infringers...

Confessions of a student blogger

Stelter comments on the need for universities to incorporate blogging into their curriculum. He stresses that when blogs are viewed as a publishing tool, rather than a platform for snarky comments or political rants, they become an outlet for online journalists. As professional members of the news media experiment with blogs, journalism students must keep pace.

Government Sources:



Intellectual Property Laws Benefit All Nations, U.S. Experts Say

Laws protecting intellectual property rights (IPR) are beneficial for all countries, regardless of their level of development, U.S. experts say. IPR, the experts say, creates "a legal infrastructure that allows business to flourish. In this regard, IPR contributes towards development."

Dominic Keating

U.S. Trade Representative to Intensify Efforts in Asia

Intellectual property rights, pharmaceuticals and medical technology issues will receive more attention thanks to changes recently instituted by U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab.

In a September 6 press release, Schwab emphasized, "Innovation is the lifeblood of American industry and promoting innovation is a key element in the President's competitiveness agenda."



U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab
(file photo © AP Images)

Reporters Can Keep News Fresh, Accurate Despite Obstacles

Journalists must want to change the way their work is perceived to establish credibility with their audience, said veteran journalist Deborah Potter who hosted a State Department-sponsored webchat with participants in Kampala, Uganda, on September 15.

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Commercial Sources:

What Kind Of Genius Are You?

University of Chicago Economics Professor David Galenson has developed a new theory that reveals the source code of the creative mind. He has spent decades in this research, and in so doing, providing living evidence of his own theory...

IPRs, Technological Development, and Economic Development

Dolfsma says intellectual property rights (IPRs) have become increasingly prominent in debates and are almost unanimously deemed to favor economic development -- especially by policymakers in developed countries...

Blogs in Academia: A Resource Guide

Blogs by academics about research interests. Blogs offer researchers a medium for sharing discipline-specific research interests with colleagues around the world...

Government Sources:

U.S. Senate Votes To Ratify Cybercrime Convention

The U.S. Senate voted on August 3 to ratify the Council of Europe (COE) Convention on Cybercrime, a multilateral treaty addressing the problems of computer-related crime and electronic evidence gathering.



"The Cybercrime Convention -- the first of its kind -- will be a key tool for the United States in fighting global, information-age crime," said U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in a statement on August 4.

Cybercrime, or Internet crime, is illegal activity arising from Web sites, chat rooms or e-mail.
(File photo © AP/WWP)

Journalists Have a Duty To Investigate Candidates, Expert Says

Journalists not only have a responsibility to help voters understand candidates and what they stand for, but also a duty to investigate people running for public office, journalist Jerry Hagstrom said August 25 in a Democracy Dialogues webchat.

In the United States, the media act as an intermediary between the voters and the candidates, Hagstrom said. Voters can attend campaign events and ask questions but the media can report more broadly on what groups of voters are asking the candidates and how the candidates respond.



Jerry Hagstrom, National Journal Correspondent
(File photo - ©The National Journal)



Handbook of Independent Journalism

This handbook offers a brief introduction to the fundamentals of journalism as it is practiced in democratic systems — a journalism that attempts to base itself on fact and not opinion...

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Commercial Sources:

The Disconnect Online

An analysis of the data by Professor Grant Reeher, an associate professor of political science at Syracuse, finds that occasional Internet users reported the highest levels of political participation. Participating in blogs, or individual exchanges run by politically oriented chat rooms through campaigns or interest groups can facilitate the exchange of information just as well as more conventional ways.

Web News Wranglers

Technology advances quickly, but information grows at an even faster clip. The torrents of blog posts and news feeds on today's Internet hold way too much data for one to keep up with it. Here, Singel presents some tools and sites, which can filter the news with ever-increasing efficiency.

Inside The Spyware Scandal

In 2005, Sony BMG Music Entertainment company put anti-piracy software on their CDs... The author tells the story of how Sony installed secret software on its customers computers that prevented listeners from making more than three copies of their music, and secretly contacted Sony via the Internet every time a PC user played a copy-protected disk.

Government Sources:

Telecommunications Benefiting Development, Experts Say

Expanded access to modern telecommunications technology in recent years has brought more residents of poor countries useful information on such topics as health, agriculture and elections, says a top official of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Online Social Networks Can Create New Forms of Community

Millions of Americans are part of online social networks, and some fear these interactions are eroding personal contacts and community life, but U.S. scholar Shalini Venturelli says the Internet-based social networks can actually contribute to a sense of community, culture and strengthen social ties...



Shalini Venturelli
(Photo courtesy of American University)

New Egyptian Press Law Restricts Free Speech, U.S. Official Says

The Egyptian government should take a close look at its new law imposing curbs on what journalists can write about in that country, said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack at a briefing July 11...

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Commercial Sources:

Scan This Book!

The idea for a "universal library" of all the world's knowledge dates back at least to the legendary library at Alexandria, Egypt, in 300 B.C. Today that idea is being revived by the search engine company Google, which is currently scanning all the several million books in five major research libraries...

This Leaky World

Powers, a National Journal columnist, describes how democracies in various parts of the world are dealing with questions about anonymous sources, the law, and the press... Powers concludes, "Freedom of the press is a delicate dance, a never-ending series of judgment calls. The more tightly a society ... tries to define that freedom, the harder it becomes for journalists to do their jobs."

Government Sources:



A high school student messages a friend in Colorado. (© AP/WWP)

Online Filtering and Censorship at Issue on the Internet

"Text messaging," "chat rooms," "blogs," "e-zines." These are just a few of the new Internet tools for spreading information and opinions. Does the Internet create a new world of free speech? Or does it pose problems that call for limits on such freedom?

As Internet activity expands worldwide, methods of filtering have become more far-reaching. Today a number of nations censor Internet communication in some fashion.

Wikipedia Promotes Free Speech, Encourages "Global Conversation"

The online encyclopedia Wikipedia is helping transform the Internet from an English-first medium to a global repository of knowledge in a multitude of languages, and the founder – Jimmy Wales – spends much of his time promoting freedom of speech around the world.

"It does not take a lot of technology to foster open dialog and debate," Wales said during a May 19 State Department-sponsored webchat. "What is needed mostly, I think, is more content in local languages, and support from people around the world to help others join in the global conversation."

Terrorists Use Cyberspace as Important Communications Tool

Hostile adversaries in the global war against terrorism are using cyberspace as an effective communications tool, a senior civilian Defense Department official says.

Intellectual Property Rights Protection Weak in China, U.S. Says

Although China has made some progress in its efforts to enforce intellectual property rights, the country still has "a long way to go," U.S. officials tell the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Chris Israel, the U.S. coordinator for international intellectual property enforcement in the Department of Commerce, and Timothy Stratford, assistant U.S. trade representative for China, update the commission on China's efforts to address counterfeiting and piracy.

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Commercial Sources:

Egypt's Media Deficit

The author, an expert on Middle East media and co-author of *Al-Jazeera: The Story Of The Network That Is Rattling Governments And Redefining Modern Journalism*, sees cautious optimism in Egypt, the most populous Arab country, because of recent electoral reforms...

My Crowd, Or Phase 5: A Report From The Inventor Of The Flash Mob

A flash mob is defined as "a public gathering of complete strangers, organized via the Internet or mobile phone, which performs a pointless act and then disperses again."... Wasik describes the logistics of organizing a flash mob event, how it evolved from an obscure prank limited to a few of the author's friends into a phenomenon that migrated to other cities throughout the United States, and the breathless coverage that flash mobs generated on blogs and mainstream newspapers.

Azerbaijan's Fourth Estate

In an interview, Arif Aliev, president of the independent journalists' union in Baku, Azerbaijan, talked about the struggle of bringing quality journalism to a place where people seldom read...

Government Sources:

Terrorists Use Cyberspace as Important Communications Tool

Allied states must strategize, pool resources to rebut terrorist propaganda

Hostile adversaries in the global war against terrorism are using cyberspace as an effective communications tool, a senior civilian Defense Department official says.



South Korean students use the Internet. (© AP/WWP)

Censorship and Online Filtering on the Internet

Issue is complex cat-and-mouse game for some countries

As Internet activity expands every month worldwide, the effects of Internet filtering in the United States and globally have become far-reaching. Most nations censor Internet communication in some fashion.

U.S. Foreign Press Centers Serve as Gateways to America

Centers help provide journalists from other countries access to news sources

Covering the United States can be a tough job for any news reporter. It is even tougher if you are a foreign reporter.

Reporters from other countries need to learn how the U.S. government and its legal systems work and develop those all-important contacts in the Congress, the White House, the State Department and a bewildering array of other government agencies.

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Commercial Sources:

Media In Conflict: Inciting Violence In Kosovo

The author, editor of the United Press International Intelligence Desk, points out the symbiotic nature of the relationship between the media and politicians and stresses the influence of the media in humanitarian crises...

When Bloggers Hit Too Close To Home

Bloggers are constantly questioning, proofreading and second-guessing the mainstream media (MSM) in America, and Americans can't seem to get enough of it. Blogging has become such a staple attached to MSM, that it can be easily assumed to be fact-based reporting, rather than what is truly is, opinion-based ranting...

Invasion Of The Computer Snatchers

Nearly all criminal commerce on the Internet is being driven by "botnets" -- networks of hijacked home computers, known as robots or "bots". Most of the botnets are created by hackers in the U.S. and abroad, who troll the Internet, looking for vulnerable computers to take over...

Government Sources:

Online Journalism Gives Readers More Control Over Information

Upcoming IIP handbook offers tips on writing for the Web

This article is fifth in a series of excerpts from an International Information Programs (IIP) publication, *Handbook of Independent Journalism*, scheduled for release in mid-2006.

The entire book will be made available on USINFO's *Publications* Web site.

Internet Connections Growing Fastest in Africa

Survey predicts bandwidth to Africa will grow dramatically

Africa is gaining Internet connectivity faster than any other region and as such, service is spreading to smaller cities and rural areas via innovative technologies -- and that only can help the expansion of free press, democracy and development all across the continent, says the co-founder and chief executive officer of allAfrica.com, Reed Kramer.

Journalism Meets the Blog

Citizen journalists everywhere you look

An American social activist was working on technology issues in West Africa when he tired of searching for news and bumped into a CNN reporter who shared the same frustration.

Activist meets journalist -- or a match made in heaven.

It was Ethan Zuckerman, former member of Geekcorps, which sends American technology experts to the developing world, and Rebecca MacKinnon, former CNN reporter, who pooled resources and founded Global Voices Online, the largest and most successful international bridge for bloggers in early 2005.

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Commercial Sources:

The Blog Revolution

What is most revolutionary today is not so much blogging itself as ease of use: newfound technology that lets writers publish and easily syndicate their work and lets readers automatically search, locate, compile and read blogs of interest...

How to Make the Web Your Friend

The Internet is enabling people to get news and entertainment in ways that are adversely impacting traditional media. Web-initiated changes are so significant that segments of the media industry need to realign themselves. Newspaper circulation is in decline but not because consumers are less interested in news.

Library Schools and the Copyright Knowledge Gap

Years from now 2005 will be considered a watershed year. Last year, a series of events ensured that information switched its dominant format from analog to digital. From digitization projects to interlibrary loan and from electronic reserves to electronic books, copyright law is having an impact on librarianship.

Government Sources:



Media Emerging



An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, March 2006

Innovation in information technologies has thrust the world into an era of democratic media in which people have access to news and information unbound from traditional barriers of time and geography. Innovation gives rise to new media formats with new models for information distribution, consumption, and use. Traditional lines between the audience and media institutions are crossed as citizens gain access to platforms from which to express their own ideas and opinions, circumventing media corporations and governments, the long-standing gatekeepers of information.

Established media institutions—newspapers and broadcasters—struggle to adapt to a new climate, just as media consumers seize their own territory in the information landscape to create a form of participatory journalism.

Experts and pioneers in these changing technologies share their thoughts on the following pages, describing the innovations unfolding and offering a vision of what may lie ahead.

Dale Peskin and Andrew Nachison of the American Press Institute's Media Center envision a collaborative information society in a model they call "We Media." Blogging pioneer Dan Gillmor describes how a new form of journalism influences public events. Television veteran Jeff Gralnick looks around the corner to the next new thing. Daniel Larkin explains how the U.S. government's Internet Crime Complaint Center pursues complaints about fraudulent and criminal activity online, which has burgeoned at the same pace as new media and technological innovation.

These and other experts share their thoughts in *Media Emerging*.

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Commercial Sources:

Invasion Of The Computer Snatchers

Nearly all criminal commerce on the Internet is being driven by "botnets" -- networks of hijacked home computers, known as robots or "bots". Most of the botnets are created by hackers in the U.S. and abroad, who troll the Internet, looking for vulnerable computers to take over.

When Bloggers Hit Too Close To Home

Bloggers are constantly questioning, proofreading and second-guessing the mainstream media (MSM) in America, and Americans can't seem to get enough of it.

Freedom Of The Press In Indian Country

With only 295 self-identified Native-American journalists working at U.S. daily newspapers, American Indian viewpoints in the mainstream media have been limited. The sovereignty and diversity of 560 Indian tribal groups add to the difficulty--and potential rewards--of covering the stories of Indians off and on the reservation.

Government Sources:



The Challenges of Globalization

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, February 2006

The World Bank defines globalization as "the growing integration of economies and societies around the world." *Wikipedia*, the Internet encyclopedia, describes globalization as "the changes in societies and the world economy that result from dramatically increased international trade and cultural exchange." The British magazine *The Economist* recently likened globalization to a line from a John Lennon song, "Imagine there's no countries. It isn't hard to do." Clearly, globalization means different things to different people.

In this issue we consider these and other aspects of globalization. The experts we have chosen examine the topic from a variety of angles, yet we offer no prescriptions, no definitive answers: Our goal is for our readers to come away with a better understanding of a deep-seated, complex phenomenon that affects us all...

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

The Internet Is Broken

The Internet's fundamental flaws -- its lack of security, decreased ability to accommodate new technologies, and that it is hard to manage -- cost companies billions, impede innovation, and threaten national security. It's time for a clean-slate approach, says MIT's David Clark...

Adding A Price Tag

In this article, media publishers, marketing managers, and advertisers weigh in on the pros and cons of fee-based content and where it's headed. Although policies on paid content are in flux, the question inevitably will assume growing importance to media owners and readers in the future.

50 Best And Most Influential Journalists

This article outlines, in the opinion of journalists, who the fifty best and most influential reporters and writers are; the author notes that journalists who may be popular are not necessarily the most influential in Washington...

Photo Chop Shop

Digital forensics has emerged as a growth industry to combat the ease with which images can be manipulated and altered with software programs like Photoshop. Recent cases of newspapers doctoring photos, coupled with the concern that digitally altered images could be used as court evidence, led Polytechnic University computer scientist Nasir Memon to join the effort to expose digital alterations.

Government Sources:

United States Updates Global Positioning System Technology

New GPS satellite ushers in a range of future improvements

A major upgrade of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), and a range of upcoming improvements to the system that provides positioning, navigation and timing data to U.S. military and civilian users around the world were announced by a Department of Commerce official January 25.



U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman (© AP/WWP)

U.S. Praises Pakistani Protection of Intellectual Property

Pakistan's eligibility for preferential tariffs to remain intact

U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman says the United States has closed its review of a petition from the U.S. private sector questioning Pakistan's eligibility for preferential tariffs under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program because Pakistan has made significant progress in the protection of intellectual property rights.

"The United States is pleased with the recent progress Pakistan has demonstrated in fighting optical disk piracy," said Portman in a January 24 statement.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

What's New for 2006

From a major Windows upgrade to powerful Web services to high-definition DVD, there's a lot to look forward to in the coming year. Among the exciting developments heralded for 2006: Advanced Web applications and tools will further blur the line between the desktop and the Internet.

Be Seeing E.U.

In the wake of last summer's bombings in London, British authorities are pushing for European Union-wide rules requiring mobile phone companies and Internet service providers to keep records of information about each call, text message, e-mail and Internet log-in to pass through their systems. Though conversations and e-mails themselves would not be stored under the proposal, data about communications, such as the time of a cell phone call and the identities and physical locations of the participants, would be kept by telecom firms under uniform rules.

The News Media's 30-Year Hibernation

The problem with online newspapers is that they are not creative, they are not interactive, and they're too much like newspapers. From the very conception of online services, the inventors envisioned them to be more than just a new way of distributing the same old information. Here, Carlson discusses the strengths and weaknesses of online journalism.

High Velocity Journalism

Brady recalls the time when he took a job at The Washington Post's new media, washington.post, in 1995. He recalls how his colleagues predicted that his stint at the new media will be short-lived as the Internet was merely a fad that would soon fade out.

Government Sources:



John Marburger speaks at the World Summit on the Information Society, November 18, 2005. (©AP/WWP)

U.S. Official Calls for Stable, Free, Accessible Internet

White House adviser promotes political, human rights in Tunisia

Governments should pursue policies that allow the Internet to remain an open, neutral medium, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director John Marburger said November 18 in Tunis, Tunisia.

Marburger's comments came at the close of the three-day World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) meeting.

Initiative Would Provide \$100 Laptop to World's Poorest Countries

MIT's nonprofit One Laptop per Child program presented to information conference

A nonprofit group seeking to develop a \$100 laptop computer for children in developing countries unveiled its first working prototype November 16 at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, Tunisia.

One Laptop per Child (OLPC), a U.S.-based organization created by faculty members of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab, seeks to distribute the low-cost computers through ministries of education, according to Nicholas Negroponte, chairman and co-founder of the MIT Media Lab and Wiesner professor of media technology at MIT.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

It's A Whole New Web

No longer content to be merely viewers and consumers, people increasingly are taking an active part in creating their online lives. At many new Web sites and services, the creative energy of countless souls virtually crackles off the screen. They're cobbling together their own services from customizable Web sites and Lego-style pieces of Web software. This potent new do-it-yourself trend is shaking up a raft of industries, from software and telecommunications to media, marketing, and entertainment...

Blogging Tips And Tricks

You have chosen and downloaded the Weblog tool that is right for you, and now you are ready to start blogging. Here are a few pointers to get anyone started off on the right foot...

Talkin' Blogs

What we're talking about isn't necessarily just about blogging, because if we're putting our voice out there saying things in any kind of format, we'd still have to be responsible. One of the things that I don't like to hear is people talking about so-and-so getting in trouble for blogging. It's not really because they're blogging; it may just be because they're acting inappropriately. It's not the blog; it's just a tool.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Bill in Congress to overhaul patent law seeks to quell suits

Lawmakers in Washington are considering changes to the patent code that would bring US law closer to intellectual property standards in the rest of the industrialized world. They want to change the US patent system from the uniquely American "first to invent" to "the first to file" standard the rest of the world uses.

Copyright law put to test in Google case

A lawsuit challenging Google Inc.'s latest effort to digitize library books and make them searchable on the Internet will push intellectual property laws to their limit, say many copyright attorneys. The latest artist v. technology battle involves a recently filed lawsuit in which the Authors Guild is suing Google over its unauthorized scanning and copying of book collections at major libraries across the country.

JOURNALISM

A New Journalism for Democracy in a New Age

In a speech Bill Kovach, chairman of the Committee of Concerned Journalists, delivered earlier this year to journalism students in Madrid Spain he focused on transitional issues that journalists are confronting in an era of rapid technological change.

Yahoo! Search Introduces 'Grassroots Journalism' to News Search; News Search Expands to Include Blogs, Flickr Photos and My Web Links, giving consumers a single source for mainstream and grassroots media, available at <http://news.search.yahoo.com>

Online journalism continues quality gains

Judging from the recent finalist announced for this year's Online Journalism Awards, the field of online news continues to become more robust and high quality, according to contest coordinators...

Journalism made easy

The Radio and Television News Directors Foundation has created "Broadcast in a Box" to give young students a head start in the journalism field. To take advantage of this compact opportunity, visit www.rtndf.org/resources/highschool.shtml

Government Sources:



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice exchanges documents with Kapil Sibal, India's Minister of Science and Technology, during signing ceremonies October 17, 2005. (©AP/WWP)

India, United States Sign Science and Technology Agreement Nations plan to collaborate on health, energy, space, basic sciences

Washington – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Indian Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal signed a science and technology agreement at the State Department October 17 to promote technological and scientific cooperation between the two nations.

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Commercial Sources:

Weblogs As A Source Of Business News And Information

Blogging, the latest trend on the Internet, impacts not only the mainstream media and private Internet users but also business-to the point that blogs can no longer be ignored by organizations. Well-known companies such as Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, and Google use them internally as knowledge-sharing and communication tools as well as externally to express their point of view to the public.

Importance Of An International Education

Journalism educators and working journalists agree that students who hope to work in today's media organizations need to have an understanding of globalization, international affairs and cultural differences--and getting this experience firsthand is optimal. Here, Peck discusses the importance of an international education in order to succeed in today's journalism jobs.

Playing The China Card; When Setting Up Shop In China, Establishing Trust Is Essential

Lured by a skilled work force and rock-bottom wages, IT customers are eyeing China's outsourcers longingly, with one major misgiving: the risk of losing intellectual property. When setting up shop in China, establishing trust is essential.

A Source of Encouragement

Media types desperate for a silver of encouraging news about public support can grasp it in the latest State of the First Amendment survey's findings about unnamed sources. Here, Smolkin expounds the 2005 edition of the poll, commissioned by the First Amendment Center in collaboration with AJR, which found that 69% of Americans agree that journalists should be allowed to keep a news source confidential.

Government Sources:

U.S. Unveils New Measures To Protect Intellectual Property

Programs call for experts in key markets, training for foreign officials

The U.S. Department of Commerce has announced new initiatives aimed at better protecting the intellectual property rights of U.S. businesses abroad.

United States, EU Fight Global Piracy, Counterfeiting

U.S.-EU Summit statement pledges commitment to fight

The White House issued a statement June 20 in connection with the U.S.-EU Summit in Washington stating the shared commitment of the United States and the European Union to combating piracy and counterfeiting at home and abroad.

U.S. Cites Progress with China on Intellectual Property Issues

USTR Portman urges Beijing to open markets further to products, services

U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman said the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade July 11 meeting in Beijing has resulted in "measured progress and commitments," particularly on intellectual property rights enforcement, but urged China to open its markets further and address U.S. concerns.

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If interested in full text of articles above, please e-mail matostm@state.gov



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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

E-Gad!

At least 60 million personal computers are already buried in U.S. garbage dumps, and about 250 million more are expected to become obsolete in the next few years. Approximately 100 million cell phones are discarded in the U.S. each year, many of which also wind up in landfills. Finding solutions to the growing problem of e-waste requires a challenging mix of consumer and business financial incentives and practices, better materials recovery practices, and intensified consumer demand for safe disposal of ubiquitous and easily outdated e-gadgets. Action is urgently needed, the author writes, as ever-increasing amounts of heavy metals from electronic equipment poison the air and contaminate landfills and groundwater in the U.S. and abroad.

The Birth Of Google

Thanks to some improvisation, and a "forward-looking" environment at Stanford, Google became a hit. This article is part of a feature, "10 Years That Changed the World," on the history of the World Wide Web.

Blogs Under Its Thumb

China today has about 3 million bloggers, according to market researcher Analysys International. And there's no shortage of potential recruits: More than 100 million Chinese now use the Internet, up 18% in just the past six months, while the 360 million Chinese with cell phones may soon join in as mobile blogging takes off...



Blogomania!

One of the most remarkable school library sites is Patrick Delaney's "Li-Blog-ary" at San Francisco's Galileo Academy of Science and Technology. The Li-Blog-ary is the synapse of a schoolwide community of bloggers.

Government Sources:

Internet Stability, Security Must Be Maintained, U.S. Says

State Department comments on United Nations' Internet governance report

Ensuring the stability and security of the Internet must be a primary concern as the international community works to devise a framework for its governance and operating mechanisms in the future, the United States said August 15.

Independent Group Submits Report on Internet Governance

World Information Society will meet in Tunis to consider findings

An independent working group has released a report on Internet governance proposing to improve Internet governance arrangements and setting priorities for future action.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

Bloggers Influence on U.S. Politics

A new study from Pew Internet & American Life Project and BuzzMetrics, titled "Buzz, Blogs, and Beyond: The Internet and the National Discourse in the Fall of 2004," suggests that bloggers can shape the political landscape...

Kids and the Internet - it's a good thing

A 2002 survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project details how the Internet gives kids access to information in ways prior generations couldn't even have imagined. At the click of a mouse, students can find the most up-to-date research for projects, seamlessly connect with study partners, share sites rich in subject matter, and find online tutors and study groups. The Internet is a virtual reference library, a 24/7 guidance counselor, and the most portable locker, backpack, and notebook imaginable.

The rise of the corporate blogger GUIDE TO BLOGGING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:

Scott Morrison examines the benefits as well as the potential risks of workers holding forth about their employers in the blogosphere

Welcome to the blogosphere - home to those informal, frequently updated online journals that people create to share their thoughts and opinions. Web logs, or blogs, have for the most part remained the domain of millions of independent bloggers who want to talk politics, trade tech ideas, share their daily lives - or criticise corporations...

Restore 5th Amendment Property Rights

The decision is alarming. As Justice Sandra Day O'Connor accurately noted in her dissenting opinion, the court has "effectively . . . delete[d] the words 'for public use' from the Takings Clause of the 5th Amendment" and thereby "refus [ed] to enforce properly the federal Constitution."

Government Sources:

Independent Group Submits Report on Internet Governance

World Information Society will meet in Tunis to consider findings

An independent working group has released a report on Internet governance proposing to improve Internet governance arrangements and setting priorities for future action. The report from the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) will be considered during the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in November in Tunis, Tunisia.

U.S. Intends To Preserve Security of Internet Domain System

Policy statement calls for international cooperation

The U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a new statement of policy June 30, expressing the U.S. intent to maintain its oversight of the operation of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System (DNS).

DNS is the system that allows online users to name Web pages and e-mail boxes and allows Internet applications to read and recognize those names so users can reliably navigate online.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial Sources:

Online Pirates Forced To Walk The Plank

America's Supreme Court has ruled that makers of peer-to-peer file-swapping technology can be held responsible for the copyright infringement that their products allow. This may stop much of the free downloading of music and film over the internet, but it will not cure the entertainment business's ills. Nor will it do much for innovation.

Culture In The Age Of Blogging

According to recent surveys conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 11 million American adults claim to have started blogs and 27 percent of Internet users report that they read them. Most of these are homemade and purely personal ventures of interest mainly to friend and family. Here, Teachout discusses the culture in the age of blogging.

When in Doubt, Check It Out

Copyright protection attaches to any original and creative image that is fixed in a tangible form of expression. Two simple no-cost solutions in using copyrighted Web illustrations, stock images, and photographs and at the same time avoiding violation of the copyright law, including asking permission from a copyright owner and purchasing necessary licensing, are proposed.

Government Sources:



Operation Predator logo

Austria, United States Jointly Investigate Child Pornography Leads from United States result in search warrants by Austrian authorities

Austrian authorities are cooperating with the United States in a massive investigation of child pornography suspects that is part of Operation Predator, a project of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Having dismantled the leadership of a child pornography Web site and money-laundering enterprise based in Minsk, Belarus, ICE agents in the United States and in 52 attaché offices worldwide focused on persons who purchased subscriptions to child pornography from Web sites affiliated with the Belarus operation.

U.N. Agency Joins Broadcasters to Boost Disaster Education Radio, television help enhance public safety in Asia Pacific region

The U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) secretariat is collaborating with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, an association of 102 radio and television broadcasters in the Asia-Pacific region, to develop radio and television programming that will help people in that region deal with natural hazards.

Two media workshops, facilitated by CNN, with more than 30 broadcasters from the Indian Ocean region, are under way in Bangkok, Thailand, during the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific June 13-16.

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IN BRIEF...

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Commercial Sources:

STATUS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET

Copyright law motivates creators to create original works, and at the same time allows creators to get compensation from their works. The law carries out this task by giving economic rights and "moral rights" to creators. "Moral rights" protect works from mutilation and deformation. Here, Hunter details how copyright law has dealt with new technologies, particularly the Internet, and discusses brief relevant cases about copyrights law.

BLOGGING: WHAT IS IT? AND HOW HAS IT AFFECTED THE MEDIA?

Beeson discusses what blogging is and how it has affected the media. Rebecca Blood, one of the emerging authorities on blogs, describes the basic blog as a Web site with a continuous, chronological series of posts--on any topic imaginable, often containing links to sites throughout the Internet. The impact blogs do have on media is that blogs and other online media have almost replaced trade magazines. This trend is likely to spread across other media genres as well.

MEAN MEDIA

According to the Pew Research Center, thirty-two million Americans read blogs in 2004. That is because blogs have great powers: they can spread the ideas of individuals faster, farther, and more cheaply than anything seen before. Blogging is good for commerce. It is good for the media, too. But blogs also have the power to focus writers' ire in ways that can destroy their targets. Recently, the blogosphere's vindictive side has been seen. It's hard to feel happy when bloggers turn into a digital mob.

THE INFINITE LIBRARY

The decision by search engine leader Google to digitize millions of books offers the promise of boundless access to the world's knowledge. Library experts welcome the conversion of full texts into searchable web pages, but some are concerned that the project undertaken by the for-profit Google has the potential to undercut the free public access to information that has long been a core library principle. The copyright protections of publishers and authors in the new format are another potentially thorny dilemma. The author wonders if the portability offered by web-based retrieval will render libraries obsolete, and examines the promises and pitfalls wrought by the new era of mass digitization.

Government Sources:



Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt speaks in Geneva, May 17, 2005.
(photo by Wendy Lubetkin)

U.S. HEALTH SECRETARY HAILS PROMISE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Leavitt calls for collaboration on global health information system

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt is asking the World Medical Association to collaborate on developing a common technical language for use in creation of a global health information technology system. Appearing before the private professional association in Geneva, May 17, Leavitt said information technology has great potential to improve health care.

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Commercial Sources:

THE INFINITE LIBRARY

The decision by search engine leader Google to digitize millions of books offers the promise of boundless access to the world's knowledge. Library experts welcome the conversion of full texts into searchable web pages, but some are concerned that the project undertaken by the for-profit Google has the potential to undercut the free public access to information that has long been a core library principle. The copyright protections of publishers and authors in the new format are another potentially thorny dilemma. The author wonders if the portability offered by web-based retrieval will render libraries obsolete, and examines the promises and pitfalls wrought by the new era of mass digitization...

BLOGGING: WHAT IS IT? HOW HAS IT AFFECTED THE MEDIA?

The author writes that web logs -- known as "blogs" -- have become ubiquitous on the Internet, providing information and opinion on every imaginable topic. Blogs are easier to set up than web sites, and individuals who create and write for blogs -- known as "bloggers" -- can broadcast their raw, unedited material to a potentially unlimited audience on the World Wide Web. Beeson believes that bloggers generally don't aspire to be journalists in the traditional sense, but simply want to put forth their opinions on issues covered in the conventional media. Blogs proved their value in supplementing the traditional media, when they were among the first to cover the devastation caused by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean region; many bloggers in the region provided immediate first-hand accounts of the destruction and loss of life...

THE FREE MARKET

Free daily newspapers, specialty publications, and papers targeted to youth are a growing trend in the newspaper industry. The goal is to introduce the newspaper reading habit to a new generation by catering to their interests and locating paper distribution at subway stops, retail outlets, and youth-oriented restaurants and clubs. While it is too early to gauge whether the "freebies" are making inroads into traditional newspaper circulation -- and whether advertisers will find the trend worth supporting -- the format is proliferating in American cities. Critics question the quality of content and point to the continuing appeal of the Web and television as the predominant news source for young news consumers...



New technologies promise to make air travel smoother for passengers and cut costs for beleaguered airlines...

Government Sources:

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT COPYRIGHT ACT 2005

Introduced on Jan. 25, 2005 in the U.S. Senate. Senate passed S. 167 on Feb. 1, 2005 on voice vote. Was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on [March 9, 2005](#). The bill passed the House on April 19, 2005

Summary:

As the 109th Congress begins, legislation from the 108th Congress was sure to reappear. The first of these bills is the "Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005," or S. 167. This bill encompasses a number of elements from last year:

Analysis:

The Artists' Rights and Theft Prevention Act of 2005 (ART Act) (formerly S. 1932 from the 108th Congress)

The bill would make the unauthorized use of a video camera in a movie theater to transmit or make a copy of a copyrighted work into an imprisonable offense. Fair use protections guaranteed under copyright law would not apply. This version of the bill includes language that would provide protection under a "preregistration" scheme for a yet-to-be-released work, as previous versions did.

The Family Movie Act of 2005 (formerly H.R.4586 of the 108th Congress)

This bill provided an affirmative right for those who used technology to skip objectionable material, such as profanity, violence, or other adult material, in the audio / video works that they legally purchased. An example of such a technology is one that the company Clearplay provides for DVD players. This is a right that most believe manufacturers of technology and consumers already have. Additionally, technology manufacturers must provide a notice at the beginning each showing of the "altered" content stating that "the motion picture is altered from the performance intended by the director or copyright holder of the motion picture." This version of the bill eliminates the language that might make users and manufacturers of ad-skipping technology automatically liable for copyright infringement.

The National Film Preservation Act of 2005

Reauthorizes the Librarian of Congress to carryout a comprehensive preservation program for motion pictures, in an effort to make the works more accessible for research and educational purposes.

Preservation of Orphan Works Act

The bill would allow libraries to create copies of certain copyrighted works that, in their last twenty years of copyright term, are no longer commercially exploited, and are not available at a reasonable price.

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Commercial Sources:

THE REAL DA VINCI CODE

Almost 500 years after his death, Leonardo da Vinci is being credited with the invention of the first robot, according to scholars and devotees who comb the records left behind by the Renaissance artist and inventor...

WEB OF INFLUENCE

Weblogs, or "blogs" -- periodically updated online news and commentary from a single author -- are proliferating on the Internet and assuming increasing importance as a news medium...

INDIA'S NEW INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY REGIME

INDIA'S emergence as an economic powerhouse was supposed to take another big step forward this year with the implementation of a new regime for protecting patents. The weak old regime long deterred foreign firms from setting up in India to use the country's ample supply of educated workers to develop new products. Foreign drug firms, in particular, looked forward eagerly to the new patent protections that India was obliged to introduce this year to meet the requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)...

MUNICIPAL WI-FI

THE internet used to be called an information highway—but does that mean it should, like many roads, be provided by the public sector? Many municipalities around the world are considering building city-wide wireless networks. Such networks use the popular short-range Wi-Fi standard—the same inexpensive technology used to provide wireless access in homes, offices, coffee shops and airport lounges...

CALLING ACROSS THE DIVIDE

New research examines the link between mobile phones and economic growth in the developing world...

Government Sources:

New Information System Aids Emergency Responders

Personal digital assistant software can help identify hazardous materials

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), part of the National Institutes of Health, has released software for personal digital assistants (PDAs) that is designed to help first responders when they arrive at a hazardous-materials incident, such as a chemical spill.

Man Pleads Guilty in "Operation Fastlink" Online Piracy Case

Texan is third U.S. conviction in international enforcement effort

Washington -- The U.S. Justice Department has announced a third U.S. conviction resulting from Operation Fastlink, an April 2004 international enforcement action against organizations involved in illegal intellectual property piracy over the Internet.

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