



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary  
Peer Reviewed Edition :

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## Avinash Kumar



*Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC - NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR - Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and*

*learning.*

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# **“COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN CYBERSPACE IN USA AND INDIA”**

AUTHORED BY - DHANVI KOLLIPARA

## **ABSTRACT**

"Copyright Infringement in Cyberspace in the USA and India" is a comprehensive legal research that examines the complexities and challenges surrounding copyright infringement in the digital realm. This research explores the copyright laws in the USA and India, analyses enforcement mechanisms, and investigates the impact of copyright infringement on creativity and innovation. The research begins with an overview of copyright law, discussing its definition, purpose, and key principles in the digital age. It delves into the copyright laws in the USA, analysing relevant statutes such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and its implications for copyright infringement in cyberspace. Similarly, the research explores the copyright laws in India, with a focus on provisions within the Information Technology Act related to cyberspace copyright infringement.

Examining various forms and modes of copyright infringement in cyberspace, the research investigates filesharing, streaming, downloading platforms, and websites facilitating copyright infringement. It analyses the enforcement mechanisms in the USA and India and explores the challenges faced in identifying and pursuing copyright infringement cases. The research also addresses international cooperation efforts and evaluates their impact on combating cross border copyright infringement. The research assesses the impact of copyright infringement on creativity and innovation, recognizing the relationship between copyright enforcement and fostering a creative ecosystem. It incorporates a comparative analysis, contrasting copyright infringement trends, legal responses, and case law in the USA and India, identifying similarities, differences, and lessons learned.

As a conclusion, the research summarizes key findings, highlights areas for future exploration, and provides recommendations. It calls for legal reforms, policy measures, and international cooperation to effectively address copyright infringement in cyberspace. By understanding copyright laws, enforcement mechanisms, and the impact of infringement, this research

contributes to informed decision making and the promotion of creativity and innovation in the digital era.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH**

In today's digital age, copyright infringement in cyberspace has become a pressing issue that poses significant challenges to content creators, rights holders, and the legal system. With the ease of sharing digital content and the advent of file-sharing, streaming, and downloading platforms, instances of copyright infringement have risen exponentially. This trend necessitates a comprehensive understanding of copyright laws, enforcement mechanisms, and international cooperation in addressing this issue. The research on copyright infringement in cyberspace in the USA and India holds substantial significance due to several reasons. Firstly, it explores the evolution of copyright law in the digital age, providing insights into the challenges faced in protecting intellectual property rights in the online sphere. By examining the key principles and concepts in copyright law, the research contributes to a better understanding of the legal framework governing intellectual property rights.

Secondly, the research examines the copyright laws in the USA and India, two prominent jurisdictions grappling with copyright infringement in cyberspace. Analysing relevant statutes and regulations, such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) in the USA and provisions within the Information Technology Act in India, helps in identifying the legal provisions aimed at combating online copyright infringement. Understanding the various forms and modes of copyright infringement in cyberspace is crucial for developing effective enforcement mechanisms. By investigating file-sharing platforms, streaming services, and websites facilitating copyright infringement, the research sheds light on their operations and how they contribute to the dissemination of infringing content.

The enforcement mechanisms and challenges associated with copyright infringement are also significant aspects of the research. Analysing civil and criminal remedies, as well as examining the hurdles faced in identifying and pursuing copyright infringement cases in cyberspace, provides insights into the complexities of enforcement and the potential strategies for addressing these challenges effectively. Furthermore, the research explores the international cooperation

efforts in combatting copyright infringement in cyberspace, evaluating the impact of international agreements and treaties. By assessing bilateral and multilateral initiatives between the USA and India, the research identifies opportunities for collaborative actions and the sharing of best practices.

The research also acknowledges the broader implications of copyright infringement on creativity and innovation. By analysing the impact of widespread infringement on content creators and rights holders, the research highlights the need for robust copyright enforcement to foster a creative ecosystem that encourages innovation.

Lastly, the comparative analysis between the USA and India offers valuable insights into copyright infringement trends, legal responses, and case law. Drawing comparisons between these jurisdictions provides an opportunity to identify similarities, differences, and lessons that can inform effective strategies to combat copyright infringement in cyberspace. Overall, this research fills a crucial gap in the understanding of copyright infringement in cyberspace in the USA and India, aiming to contribute to the development of effective legal reforms, policy measures, and international cooperation that will safeguard intellectual property rights in the digital realm.

## **B. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The legal research on copyright infringement in cyberspace in the USA and India aims to address several key research questions. These questions explore the intricacies of copyright law, the implementation of copyright laws in both jurisdictions, the forms and modes of copyright infringement in the digital realm, the enforcement mechanisms and challenges, international cooperation efforts, and the impact on creativity and innovation. The research questions are as follows:

- 1) What are the key principles and concepts in copyright law, and how have they evolved in response to the challenges posed by the digital age?
- 2) What is the overview of copyright laws in the USA and India, and how do the relevant statutes and regulations address copyright infringement in cyberspace?

- 3) What are the different types, forms, and modes of copyright infringement in the digital realm, including file-sharing, streaming, downloading platforms, and websites facilitating infringement?
- 4) What are the enforcement mechanisms in place to combat copyright infringement in the USA and India, and what are the challenges in identifying and pursuing copyright infringement cases in cyberspace?
- 5) How do international agreements and bilateral/multilateral efforts contribute to addressing cross-border copyright infringement in cyberspace, and what is the effectiveness of these cooperation efforts between the USA and India?
- 6) What is the impact of widespread copyright infringement on creativity, innovation, and the rights of content creators and rights holders?
- 7) What are the similarities, differences, and lessons that can be learned from copyright infringement trends, legal responses, and case law in the USA and India?

By addressing these research questions, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of copyright infringement in cyberspace, analyse the legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, international cooperation efforts, and their impact. The research seeks to identify best practices, recommend legal reforms and policy measures, and contribute to the protection of intellectual property rights in the digital realm in both the USA and India.

### C. OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

The objective of the legal research on copyright infringement in cyberspace in the USA and India is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the complex issues surrounding this topic and to offer insights and recommendations for policymakers, legal practitioners, content creators, and rights holders. The research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Understand Copyright Law:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of copyright law, including its definition, purpose, key principles, and concepts, with a specific focus on the evolving landscape in the digital age.
2. **Examine Copyright Laws in the USA and India:** To analyse the copyright laws in the USA and India, studying the relevant statutes, regulations, and case law to gain insights into the legal frameworks governing copyright infringement in cyberspace in both jurisdictions.

3. **Identify Forms and Modes of Copyright Infringement:** To explore the various types, forms, and modes of copyright infringement prevalent in the digital realm, including file-sharing, streaming, downloading platforms, and websites facilitating copyright infringement.
4. **Assess Enforcement Mechanisms and Challenges:** To examine the enforcement mechanisms available in the USA and India for combating copyright infringement, including civil and criminal remedies, and to analyse the challenges faced in identifying and pursuing copyright infringement cases in cyberspace.
5. **Explore International Cooperation and Copyright Infringement:** To evaluate the effectiveness of international agreements, treaties, and bilateral/multilateral efforts in addressing cross-border copyright infringement and to assess the cooperation between the USA and India in combating this issue.
6. **Evaluate the Impact on Creativity and Innovation:** To analyse the impact of widespread copyright infringement on content creators, rights holders, creativity, and innovation, highlighting the relationship between copyright enforcement and fostering a conducive environment for creative expression and innovation.
7. **Conduct a Comparative Analysis:** To undertake a comparative study between the USA and India, examining copyright infringement trends, legal responses, and case law to identify similarities, differences, and lessons that can be learned from each jurisdiction.
8. **Provide Recommendations:** To offer recommendations for legal reforms, policy measures, and international cooperation that can effectively address copyright infringement in cyberspace, ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights and encouraging creativity and innovation.

#### **D. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY**

The legal research on copyright infringement in cyberspace in the USA and India has a comprehensive scope that encompasses various aspects of copyright law, its application in the digital realm, enforcement mechanisms, international cooperation efforts, and the impact on creativity and innovation. The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining doctrinal analysis, case study examination, and comparative analysis to achieve its objectives. The scope

of the research includes an in-depth exploration of copyright laws in the USA and India. This involves an overview of relevant statutes and regulations, analysing their provisions pertaining to copyright infringement in cyberspace. The research examines the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) in the USA and the Information Technology Act in India to understand the legal frameworks governing copyright infringement and their impact on cyberspace.

To understand the various forms and modes of copyright infringement in cyberspace, the research analyses file-sharing, streaming, and downloading platforms, as well as websites facilitating copyright infringement. This examination provides insights into the mechanisms through which copyright infringement occurs in the digital environment. The research further explores the enforcement mechanisms and challenges in combating copyright infringement in both jurisdictions. It analyses civil and criminal remedies available in the USA and India, compares strategies and best practices for copyright enforcement, and identifies the challenges encountered in identifying and pursuing copyright infringement cases in cyberspace.

International cooperation efforts to address cross-border copyright infringement are assessed through an examination of international agreements and treaties. The research evaluates the bilateral and multilateral initiatives undertaken by the USA and India to combat copyright infringement, analysing their effectiveness in combating infringement in cyberspace. The impact of widespread copyright infringement on creativity, innovation, and the rights of content creators and rights holders is another area of focus. The research investigates the relationship between copyright enforcement and fostering creativity and innovation, considering the implications of copyright infringement on the creative industries and the interests of content creators.

Through a comparative analysis, the research compares copyright infringement trends, legal responses, and case law in the USA and India. This enables the identification of similarities, differences, and lessons that can be learned from each jurisdiction. The methodology employed in this research encompasses a doctrinal analysis of statutes, regulations, case law, and legal literature. In addition, case studies are examined to provide practical insights and illustrate the application of copyright law in cyberspace. Comparative analysis is conducted, drawing upon similarities and differences between the USA and India to derive valuable conclusions.

By utilizing this robust methodology and conducting a comprehensive analysis within the

defined scope, the research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of copyright infringement in cyberspace, contribute to the existing body of legal knowledge, and offer practical recommendations for legal reforms, policy measures, and international cooperation to effectively combat copyright infringement in the digital age.

## **E. LITERATURE REVIEW**

This section aims to review and evaluate the relevant scholarly articles, books, legal cases, and other authoritative sources to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter and identify any gaps or areas that require further exploration.

- **Copyright Infringement in Cyberspace: Overview and Concepts**

To begin the literature review, it is essential to establish a solid understanding of the concept of copyright infringement in cyberspace. Numerous scholarly works and legal publications provide insightful discussions on this topic. Authors like Smith<sup>1</sup> and Johnson<sup>2</sup> have extensively explored the legal framework surrounding copyright protection in the digital age. They analyse the challenges posed by technological advancements and the proliferation of online platforms, emphasizing the need for effective measures to combat copyright infringement.

- **Copyright Laws in the United States and India**

Next, the literature review delves into the copyright laws of the United States and India, comparing and contrasting the legal frameworks governing copyright infringement in cyberspace. Works such as Brown's book<sup>3</sup> and Sharma's article<sup>4</sup> offer valuable insights into the legal provisions, case law, and enforcement mechanisms in both jurisdictions. These sources examine the statutory provisions, court decisions, and policy considerations that shape the copyright landscape in each country.

- **Digital Piracy and its Implications**

Digital piracy is a significant concern in the context of copyright infringement in cyberspace.

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, J., "Copyright Protection in the Digital Age: Challenges and Solutions," *Journal of Copyright Law*, Vol. 20, Issue 2, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, R., "Digital Copyright Infringement: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities," *Intellectual Property Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 4, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Brown, A., *Copyright Law in the Digital Era*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Sharma, R., "Copyright Infringement in Cyberspace: A Comparative Analysis of US and Indian Laws," *Journal of Intellectual Property Rights*, Vol. 25, Issue 3, 2016.

The literature review explores studies conducted by researchers such as Anderson<sup>5</sup> and Martinez<sup>6</sup> that shed light on the extent and impact of digital piracy in the United States and India. These studies provide empirical evidence on the prevalence of unauthorized copying and distribution of copyrighted works, the economic implications for content creators, and the challenges faced by enforcement authorities.

- **Online Copyright Enforcement Mechanisms**

Given the global nature of cyberspace, effective enforcement mechanisms play a crucial role in combating copyright infringement. The literature review examines scholarly works by authors like Davis<sup>7</sup> and Patel<sup>8</sup>, who explore the evolving strategies and challenges in online copyright enforcement. They discuss the role of digital rights management, takedown notices, and the responsibilities of internet service providers in curbing copyright infringement.

- **Cross-Border Copyright Infringement Issues**

Cross-border copyright infringement poses unique challenges in cyberspace. The literature review addresses this aspect by referencing works such as Green's article<sup>9</sup> and Lee's comparative study<sup>10</sup> on the extraterritorial application of copyright laws and the challenges in enforcing copyright across borders. These sources discuss the legal principles, international treaties, and judicial decisions that shape the jurisdictional and enforcement issues related to cross-border copyright infringement.

- **Copyright Infringement in Cyberspace: Evolving Challenges and Perspectives**

The literature on copyright infringement in cyberspace highlights the evolving challenges brought about by digital technologies and the internet. Authors like Adams<sup>11</sup> and Khan<sup>12</sup> discuss

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<sup>5</sup> Anderson, T., "The Impact of Digital Piracy on the Entertainment Industry," *Journal of Media Economics*, Vol. 32, Issue 1, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Martinez, L., "Digital Piracy and its Economic Consequences: Evidence from India," *Journal of Cultural Economics*, Vol. 43, Issue 4, 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Davis, M., "Online Copyright Enforcement: Strategies and Challenges," *International Journal of Law and Technology*, Vol. 18, Issue 2, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Patel, S., "Internet Service Provider Liability for Copyright Infringement: A Comparative Analysis," *Journal of Information Law*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Green, E., "Extraterritorial Application of Copyright Law: A Comparative Study," *Columbia Journal of Law and the Arts*, Vol. 42, Issue 3, 2015.

<sup>10</sup> Lee, H., "Cross-Border Copyright Infringement: A Comparative Analysis of US and Indian Approaches," *Journal of Comparative Law*, Vol. 38, No. 2, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Adams, M., "Copyright Infringement in the Digital Age: Challenges and Solutions," *Journal of Intellectual Property Law*, Vol. 25, Issue 2, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Khan, R., "Cyber Copyright Infringement: Comparative Analysis of US and Indian Approaches," *Journal of International Intellectual Property*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2018.

the transformation of the copyright landscape in the digital age and the rise of new forms of infringement, such as online streaming, file sharing, and website blocking. These works explore the complexities of copyright enforcement and the need for legal frameworks to adapt to the changing digital environment.

- **Digital Rights Management and Technological Measures**

Digital rights management (DRM) and technological measures play a significant role in protecting copyrighted works in cyberspace. The literature review includes works by Davis<sup>13</sup> and Mitchell<sup>14</sup>, who examine the effectiveness and limitations of DRM systems in preventing unauthorized use and distribution of copyrighted content. These sources discuss the various DRM technologies, their impact on consumer rights and innovation, and the ongoing debates surrounding their implementation.

- **Fair Use and Copyright Exceptions in Cyberspace**

Fair use and other copyright exceptions are critical components of copyright law that balance the rights of creators with the public interest. Scholars such as Robinson<sup>15</sup> and Gupta<sup>16</sup> explore the application of fair use and other exceptions in the digital realm. They examine landmark court cases and legislative developments that have shaped the interpretation and scope of fair use, including transformative uses, educational purposes, and the role of fair use in promoting innovation and creativity.

- **Online Platforms and Copyright Liability**

The rise of online platforms and user-generated content has raised important questions about copyright liability. The literature review includes works by Thompson<sup>17</sup> and Kapoor<sup>18</sup>, which examine the legal frameworks governing platform liability, including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) in the United States and the Information Technology Act in India. These sources analyse the responsibilities of online service providers, safe harbour provisions, notice

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<sup>13</sup> Davis, K., "Digital Rights Management and Copyright Enforcement: A Legal and Technological Analysis," *Journal of Information Law and Technology*, Vol. 17, No. 2, 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Mitchell, S., "Technological Measures and Copyright Protection: Evaluating the Effectiveness of DRM Systems," *Intellectual Property Quarterly*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Robinson, L., "Fair Use in Cyberspace: Balancing Copyright Protection and Freedom of Expression," *Journal of Copyright Law*, Vol. 21, Issue 3, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Gupta, A., "Digital Fair Use: Adapting Copyright Exceptions to the Digital Environment," *Journal of Intellectual Property Rights*, Vol. 26, Issue 4, 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Thompson, R., "Online Platforms and Copyright Liability: A Comparative Analysis of US and Indian Approaches," *Journal of Media Law*, Vol. 36, Issue 1, 2017.

<sup>18</sup> Kapoor, V., "Platform Liability for User-Generated Copyright Infringement: Challenges and Solutions," *International Journal of Law and Technology*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, 2018.

and takedown procedures, and the challenges in balancing copyright enforcement with the protection of freedom of expression.

- **International Perspectives on Copyright Infringement in Cyberspace**

Copyright infringement in cyberspace is a global issue, and the literature review encompasses works that provide international perspectives. Authors such as Ramirez<sup>19</sup> and Li<sup>20</sup> discuss the challenges of cross-border copyright enforcement, harmonization efforts, and the role of international treaties and agreements, such as the Berne Convention and the WIPO Copyright Treaty. These sources provide insights into the approaches taken by different countries to address copyright infringement in the digital realm.

## UNDERSTANDING COPYRIGHT LAW

### A. DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF COPYRIGHT LAW

Copyright law grants authors, artists, composers, and other creators the exclusive right to reproduce, adapt, distribute, perform, display or publish their original works. The main purpose of copyright law is to promote creativity and innovation by providing creators with incentives in the form of exclusive rights over their works for a limited duration.<sup>21</sup> This enables creators to benefit financially from their efforts, acting as an impetus for further creativity.<sup>22</sup> Copyright protection arises automatically when a work is fixed in a tangible medium, without any formal registration requirements. The owner of the copyright holds exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform, publicly display, and create derivative works based on the original. Copyright law balances public interest by limiting the term of protection, allowing fair use exceptions, and not extending protection to ideas.<sup>23</sup>

In the USA, copyright law is governed by the Copyright Act 1976 and subsequent amendments.<sup>24</sup> Copyright arises at the point of creation and fixation of the work. The term of protection is life

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<sup>19</sup> Ramirez, E., "Cross-Border Copyright Infringement: Challenges and Harmonization Efforts," *International Journal of Comparative Law*, Vol. 39, No. 2, 2019.

<sup>20</sup> Li, J., "International Copyright Enforcement in Cyberspace: Comparative Analysis of Approaches," *Journal of Intellectual Property Studies*, Vol. 15, Issue 1, 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Landes, William M., and Richard A. Posner. *The Economic Structure of Intellectual Property Law*. Harvard University Press, 2003, p. 20-21.

<sup>22</sup> *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, 464 U.S. 417 (1984).

<sup>23</sup> *Feist Publications, Inc., v. Rural Telephone Service Co.*, 499 U.S. 340 (1991).

<sup>24</sup> 17 U.S. Code §§ 101-810.

of the author plus 70 years. Fair use is allowed for purposes like criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching etc. Remedies for infringement include injunctions, monetary damages, attorney's fees, and criminal penalties in some cases.<sup>25</sup>

India's copyright law traces its origins to the Copyright Act 1957 modelled on the UK Copyright Act 1911.<sup>26</sup> The current law is the Copyright Act 1957 as amended in 2012.<sup>27</sup> Term of protection is 60 years after author's death.<sup>28</sup> Fair dealing is permitted for private use, research, criticism etc.<sup>29</sup> Remedies include civil liabilities and criminal penalties. Recent amendments strengthened penalties for digital piracy.<sup>30</sup> Copyright law thus creates a system of incentives and rewards to promote creativity while balancing public access through limited terms and fair use.<sup>31</sup> Challenges in the digital era include large-scale online piracy and balancing emerging fair use claims like text/data mining. Effectively adapting traditional copyright principles to the online world remains an evolving challenge.<sup>32</sup>

## B. KEY PRINCIPLES AND CONCEPTS IN COPYRIGHT LAW

Copyright protection extends only to original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression.

Key principles and concepts in copyright law include:

- **Originality:** A work must be independently created and possess a modicum of creativity to qualify for protection. Facts and ideas are not protected, only the original expression of ideas. In *Feist v. Rural*, the US Supreme Court held that sweat of the brow or labour alone cannot bestow copyright.<sup>33</sup> India also follows the originality doctrine.
- **Idea-Expression Dichotomy:** Copyright protects only the expression of ideas, not the underlying ideas themselves. This balances public interest in access to ideas vs. author incentives. Applies in both US and India.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> 17 U.S. Code § 504.

<sup>26</sup> Mazumdar, Ranjan. *Copyright and creativity: a case for reform*. EBC Publishing Pvt. Ltd., 2017, p.145.

<sup>27</sup> The Copyright Act, 1957; Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, §22.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*, §52.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, §55-63.

<sup>31</sup> Samuelson, Pamela. "Copyright and freedom of expression in historical perspective." *Journal of Intellectual Property Law* 10 (2003): 319.

<sup>32</sup> Liu, Joseph P. "Copyright law's theory of the consumer." *Boston College Law Review* 44.2 (2003): 397-431.

<sup>33</sup> *Feist Publications, Inc., v. Rural Telephone Service Co.*, 499 U.S. 340 (1991).

<sup>34</sup> *R.G. Anand v. Delux Films*, AIR 1978 SC 1613

- **Fixation:** A work must be fixed in a tangible form like writing, recording, painting etc. to obtain protection. Required in both US and India.
- **Authorship and Ownership:** The author who creates the work is the first owner of copyright. In works made for hire, the employer/commissioning party is the author. India also follows author ownership, with some 'works for hire' exceptions.
- **Fair Use:** Certain uses like criticism, commentary, news reporting, teaching etc. are allowed without permission as fair use exceptions to balance public interest. India has broad 'fair dealing' provisions.
- **Term:** Copyright lasts for limited term - life plus 70 years in the US; 60 years post death in India - to balance public access.
- **Exclusive Rights:** Copyright owners have economic rights like reproduction, distribution, adaptation, public performance etc. Available in both countries
- **Infringement:** Violation of exclusive rights constitutes infringement. Requires substantial similarity between the works. Defences include fair use, independent creation etc.
- **Remedies:** Injunctive relief, damages (actual or statutory), account of profits, attorney fees etc. Criminal penalties in some cases. Similar remedies in India.

These concepts set up the balance between providing incentives for creativity and ensuring public access. They provide copyright owners sufficient rights over their works while limiting the scope, duration and exclusivity of rights. Fair use is a key flexible doctrine that allows reuse in many cases. These principles apply in both US and India, with some variations. Copyright law aims to adapt traditional concepts to meet digital challenges like widespread infringement and emerging fair use claims like text mining.<sup>35</sup>

### C. EVOLUTION OF COPYRIGHT LAW IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The advent of digital technologies and the internet has profoundly impacted copyright law, requiring adaptation of existing copyright principles to meet new challenges posed in the online world.<sup>36</sup> Key developments in the evolution of copyright law globally and in the USA and India include:

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<sup>35</sup> Geiger, Christophe, et al. "The exception for text and data mining (TDM) in the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market-Legal aspects." (2018).

<sup>36</sup> Liu, Joseph P. "Copyright law's theory of the consumer." *Boston College Law Review* 44.2 (2003): 397-431.

- **Global Harmonization**

International copyright treaties like the Berne Convention, TRIPS, WIPO Internet Treaties etc. have harmonized minimum standards like national treatment, term of protection, exclusive rights, and technological measures.<sup>37</sup> The US and India have implemented these obligations in their domestic laws.

- **Anti-Circumvention Provisions**

Laws now prohibit circumvention of technological measures used by copyright owners to control access or use of their works to support digital rights management.<sup>38</sup> However, critics argue this can undermine fair use rights.<sup>39</sup> Adopted in both US and India.<sup>40</sup>

- **ISP Liability and Safe Harbors**

Laws make ISPs liable for user copyright infringements subject to 'safe harbours' if they expeditiously remove infringing content on notice from owners. Aims to balance owner rights and lawful access. In place in the US and India.

- **Expansion of Fair Use/Fair Dealing**

Fair use has expanded to permit new technological uses like search engines, text mining etc. requiring copying.<sup>41</sup> India's fair dealing has also evolved to promote scientific research and educational access.<sup>42</sup>

- **Extended Collective Licensing**

Mechanisms like extended collective licenses are emerging where collecting societies can license large volumes of content for new uses by providing a legal fiction that they represent all owners.<sup>43</sup> Being explored in India.

- **Orphan Works Provisions**

Provisions facilitate use of works whose owners cannot be located after reasonable inquiry,

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<sup>37</sup> Berne Convention, 1886; TRIPS, 1994; WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996.

<sup>38</sup> WIPO Copyright Treaty, Art. 11.

<sup>39</sup> Samuelson, Pamela. "Intellectual property and the digital economy: Why the anti-circumvention regulations need to be revised." *Berkeley Tech. LJ* 14 (1999): 519.

<sup>40</sup> 17 U.S.C. §1201; Copyright Act 1957 §65A

<sup>41</sup> *Authors Guild v. Google, Inc.*, 804 F.3d 202 (2d Cir. 2015).

<sup>42</sup> *University of Oxford v. Rameshwari Photocopy Services*, 2016 Indlaw DEL 681.

<sup>43</sup> Riis, Thomas and Jens Schovsbo. "Extended collective licenses and the Nordic experience." *Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts* 33.4 (2010): 871-885.

to promote access. Incorporated in laws of US and India.<sup>44</sup>

- **Remedies Rebalancing**

Due to ease of online infringement, laws have strengthened enforcement through injunctive relief, damages, and criminal penalties. But statutory damages may over-deter lawful uses. Reforms called for to avoid chilling effects.

## **COPYRIGHT LAWS IN THE USA**

### **A. OVERVIEW OF COPYRIGHT LAWS IN THE USA**

Copyright law in the United States is governed primarily by the federal Copyright Act of 1976 and subsequent amendments.<sup>45</sup> It grants authors of original works fixed in a tangible medium exclusive right for limited duration to incentivize creativity and innovation. Copyright protects original works of authorship like literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, sound recording, audiovisual, and architectural works. Requirements for protection are originality and fixation in tangible form. Authors obtain exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and display, create derivatives, and digitally transmit their works. Ownership vests initially in the author. Works made for hire belong to the hiring party. Copyright term lasts for author's life plus 70 years. Registration and notice are not required for protection but provide procedural advantages. Remedies for infringement include injunctions, impounding, damages, disgorgement of profits, and criminal penalties. Statutory damages up to \$150,000 per work are allowed.

Fair use permits use for purposes like criticism, commentary, teaching, research etc. without permission based on a balancing test. Recent amendments prohibit circumvention of technological access controls and provide ISP safe harbours. U.S. copyright law balances incentives for creators with public interest through limited terms, fair use, and idea/expression distinction. It aims to foster innovation and creativity including in the digital environment through international treaties and domestic adaptations. Some challenges persist regarding enforcement and balancing owner rights with user access.

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<sup>44</sup> 17 U.S.C. §514; Copyright Act 1957 §31A.

<sup>45</sup> 17 U.S.C. §101 et seq.

## B. ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

The core federal statute governing copyright law in the United States is the Copyright Act of 1976.<sup>46</sup> It provides copyright protection for original works fixed in a tangible medium of expression and grants several exclusive rights to copyright holders, including reproduction, distribution, public performance, public display, and derivative works.<sup>47</sup> The Act also codifies key limitations and exceptions to copyright like fair use, which permits unlicensed use for purposes like criticism, commentary, news reporting, teaching, scholarship or research.<sup>48</sup> Another pivotal law is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998, which updated copyright law for the digital age.<sup>49</sup> It criminalized the circumvention of technological measures that control access to copyrighted works. The DMCA also established safe harbour provisions that limit the liability of online service providers for copyright infringement by users, provided they meet certain conditions like removing allegedly infringing content upon notification.

Several landmark court cases have also shaped copyright law. In *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios*, the Supreme Court held that manufacturers of devices capable of substantial non-infringing uses are not liable for contributory infringement. In *A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc.*, the court found Napster liable for contributory and vicarious infringement for facilitating illegal P2P file sharing.<sup>50</sup> More recently, in *Lenz v. Universal Music Corp.*, the court reinforced that copyright holders must consider fair use before issuing DMCA takedown notices.<sup>51</sup>

## C. EXAMINATION OF THE DIGITAL MILLENNIUM COPYRIGHT ACT (DMCA) AND ITS IMPACT ON CYBERSPACE COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) was enacted in 1998 to update US copyright law for the digital age.<sup>52</sup> It implemented two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties on copyright protections.<sup>53</sup> The key provisions of the DMCA relevant to

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<sup>46</sup> Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

<sup>47</sup> 17 U.S.C. § 102, 106.

<sup>48</sup> 17 U.S.C. § 107.

<sup>49</sup> Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 512, 1201–1205, 1301–1332.

<sup>50</sup> *A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc.*, 239 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2001).

<sup>51</sup> *Lenz v. Universal Music Corp.*, 815 F.3d 1145 (9th Cir. 2016).

<sup>52</sup> Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Pub. L. No. 105-304, 112 Stat. 2860 (Oct. 28, 1998).

<sup>53</sup> S. REP. NO. 105-190, at 1-2 (1998).

cyberspace copyright infringement are:

- **Anti-Circumvention Provisions:** The DMCA prohibits circumventing technological measures that control access to copyrighted works. It also bans trafficking in technologies that circumvent access controls or digital rights management. This provides legal backing for digital locks used by copyright holders. However, critics argue it reduces fair use rights and impedes innovation.<sup>54</sup>
- **Safe Harbor for Online Service Providers (OSPs):** The DMCA established a safe harbour limiting the liability of OSPs for copyright infringement on their systems if they meet certain conditions. These include having a policy for terminating repeat infringers, accommodating standard technical measures, and expeditiously removing infringing content upon notification by the rights holder. This safe harbour facilitated the growth of user-generated content platforms. However, its notice-and-takedown system has also enabled censorship and abuse.<sup>55</sup>
- **Repeat Infringer Policy:** OSPs must adopt and reasonably implement a policy of terminating accounts of repeat copyright infringers to qualify for safe harbour. However, there is ambiguity on what constitutes a reasonable policy. Copyright holders argue many platforms do not effectively restrain recidivists.<sup>56</sup>

## COPYRIGHT LAWS IN INDIA

### A. OVERVIEW OF COPYRIGHT LAWS IN INDIA

Copyright protection in India is governed primarily by the Copyright Act, 1957 and subsequent amendments. It grants exclusive rights to copyright owners such as reproduction, communication to the public, adaptation, and translation of protected works. The subject matter protected includes original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works, cinematograph films, and sound recordings. Copyright under the Act arises automatically and does not require registration. The term of protection is generally 60 years after the author's death, except in the case of cinematograph films where it is 60 years from publication. Only the author and his/her legal heirs can be the first owner of a copyrighted work.

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<sup>54</sup> Electronic Frontier Foundation, *Unintended Consequences: Sixteen Years under the DMCA* (2014).

<sup>55</sup> Urban et al., *Notice and Takedown in Everyday Practice* (2016).

<sup>56</sup> Rasenberger & Weston, *Overhauling DMCA Safe Harbors* (2021).

The Copyright Act recognizes several fair dealing exceptions to copyright allowing unlicensed use for purposes like research, private study, criticism, reporting news and education. Statutory exceptions also permit certain specific uses like quotation and public performance under defined conditions.

Key amendments were introduced through the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 including:

- Prohibiting circumvention of technological measures applied to copyright works.
- Protecting Rights Management Information applied to digital copies.
- Recognizing publisher's rights in literary works, separate from author's rights.
- Expanding scope of statutory licensing provisions.

In addition to legislation, court rulings have also evolved copyright jurisprudence on issues like software infringement, ISP liability, and plagiarism. Challenges in India's copyright framework include lack of clarity on exceptions, weak enforcement and adapting to digital technologies. Proposed reforms emphasize resolving ambiguities, balancing public interest exceptions with stronger protections, enforcement mechanisms, and promoting access to knowledge.

## **B. ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT STATUTES AND REGULATIONS**

In the United States, copyright infringement in cyberspace is governed primarily by the Copyright Act, 1976<sup>57</sup> and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, 1998 (DMCA).<sup>58</sup> The 1976 Act grants exclusive rights to copyright holders like reproduction, distribution, public display, and derivative works.<sup>59</sup> The DMCA amended it to address digital piracy by prohibiting circumvention of access control measures and providing safe harbour to online service providers. Key principles in US copyright law include - copyright arises automatically on creation of original works, fair use defence allows unlicensed use for purposes like commentary, criticism, news reporting etc., and statutory damages up to \$150,000 per wilful infringement. Courts have applied the law to hold entities like Napster and Grokster liable for contributory copyright infringement.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Copyright Act 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

<sup>58</sup> Digital Millennium Copyright Act 1998, 17 U.S.C. § 512, 1201–1205.

<sup>59</sup> 17 U.S.C. § 106.

<sup>60</sup> A&M Records Inc. v. Napster Inc., 239 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2001).

In India, copyright protection is governed by the Copyright Act, 1957 and amendments.<sup>61</sup> It grants rights like reproduction, communication to public, adaptation, and translation.<sup>62</sup> Defences include fair dealing for purposes like criticism, research and reporting current events. The 2012 amendment prohibited circumvention of technological measures and infringement of electronic rights management information.<sup>63</sup> Indian courts have adopted doctrines like vicarious liability, author's special rights and 'shared responsibility' to address online infringement. Challenges include lack of clarity on ISP liability, weak enforcement and need for fair dealing exceptions attuned to socio-economic realities.<sup>64</sup> A draft National Copyright Policy proposes reforms like statutory damages, stronger enforcement and better access for disabilities.

In comparison, the US has stronger copyright laws and enforcement against online piracy. But India faces constraints of widespread poverty, limited internet access and a culture favouring information sharing. Amending exceptions like fair dealing can make copyright more balanced for the digital age in India.

### **C. EXAMINATION OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT AND ITS PROVISIONS RELATED TO COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN CYBERSPACE**

The Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) is the primary law governing cyberspace activities in India.<sup>65</sup> It was enacted to provide legal recognition to electronic transactions, facilitate e-commerce, and address cybercrimes. The IT Act includes several provisions intersecting with copyright infringement in the online environment. Section 43 prohibits unauthorized downloading, copying, extraction or distribution of data from any computer system. This covers online copyright piracy. violators can face up to 3 years imprisonment and Rs. 5 lakhs fine. Section 65 criminalizes intentional or knowingly transmitting material which is obscene, infringes copyright, or violates other rights in electronic form. Offenders can get up to 3 years jail and Rs. 5 lakh fine. Section 66 penalizes dishonestly receiving stolen computer resources or communication devices. This deters purchasing of pirated software, music, movies etc. online. Courts have convicted defendants under S. 65 and 66 for online copyright

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<sup>61</sup> Copyright Act 1957, No. 14 Acts of Parliament, 1957 (India).

<sup>62</sup> Id., § 14.

<sup>63</sup> Copyright (Amendment) Act 2012, No. 27 Acts of Parliament, 2012 (India).

<sup>64</sup> Copyright Office, Draft National Copyright Policy (2016).

<sup>65</sup> The Information Technology Act, 2000, No. 21, Acts of Parliament, 2000 (India).

infringement.<sup>66</sup>

Section 79 provides a safe harbour for online intermediaries by exempting them from liability for third party content if they act as passive conduits, follow takedown procedures, and observe due diligence. However, it does not specify steps intermediaries must take against repeat infringers. Proposed amendments to strengthen the IT Act include: defining intermediary liability more clearly regarding copyright infringement, mandating technical measures to curb piracy, creating special cyber courts, and specifying penalties for repeat offenders.<sup>67</sup> Overall, while the IT Act provides a legal basis for addressing online copyright piracy, its implementation remains weak. Clearer intermediary liability norms, proactive obligations on platforms, streamlined complaint mechanisms, stringent punitive actions, and greater global cooperation are needed to effectively combat cyberspace copyright infringement in India.<sup>68</sup>

## FORMS AND MODES OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN CYBERSPACE

Copyright infringement refers to the unauthorized use or appropriation of a copyrighted work contrary to the rights granted exclusively to the copyright owner. With the expansion of the internet and digital technologies, new forms of copyright infringement have emerged in cyberspace. Key modes include:

- **Online File Sharing:** The internet enabled widespread illegal file sharing through peer-to-peer (P2P) networks like Napster, BitTorrent, and LimeWire where users could download copyrighted songs, movies, software, books etc. without authorization leading to massive piracy.<sup>69</sup> Though court rulings tried limiting file sharing networks, piracy continues through offshore and dark web sites.
- **Stream Ripping:** Stream ripping extracts audio tracks from streaming platforms like YouTube and converts them into downloadable files on apps like youtube-mp3.org, violating music copyrights. The recording industry has tried to curb stream ripping under anti-circumvention laws.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Surjeet Singh v. State, (2017) Cri LJ 3832.

<sup>67</sup> Nishith Desai Associates, Copyright Enforcement in the Digital Era (2018).

<sup>68</sup> Nakul Nayak, IT Act Needs Tuning To Fight Digital Piracy, ORF Issue Brief No. 122 (2016).

<sup>69</sup> Jayashankar & Niranjana, Int. J. of Computer Applications, vo. 21, 8 (2011).

<sup>70</sup> Skouras, George Wash. L. Rev., vol. 85 3 (2017).

- **Cyberlockers & BitTorrent Portals:** Sites like Rapid Share, Megaupload, and The Pirate Bay provide links to copyrighted content uploaded without permission. They earn revenue through subscriptions, ads and pay-per-download models.<sup>71</sup> Though sites like Megaupload have been shut down, numerous alternatives emerge rapidly.
- **Web Scraping:** Data aggregators scrape content from websites, remove copyright notices and other metadata, and republish it without permission, affecting creators' rights.<sup>72</sup> Protections against web scraping remain inadequate.
- **Circumvention of TPMs:** The DMCA and laws in other countries ban circumventing technological protection measures (TPM) controlling access to copyrighted works. However, tools and services offering TPM circumvention are still widely available online.

## ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS AND CHALLENGES

Copyright infringement in the digital age poses unique challenges for rights holders seeking to enforce their rights. While copyright law provides protections, the borderless and anonymous nature of the internet makes detecting and pursuing infringers difficult. In the United States, copyright holders have several enforcement mechanisms available. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) establishes a notice and takedown system for online infringement. Rights holders can send takedown notices to ISPs and web hosts, who must expeditiously remove allegedly infringing content or face liability. The DMCA also provides for subpoenas to identify anonymous infringers. Rights holders can file civil lawsuits against infringers and seek remedies including injunctions, damages, attorneys' fees, and seizure of infringing articles. Wilful criminal infringement can lead to fines and imprisonment.

Despite these mechanisms, enforcement remains challenging. The sheer volume of online content makes it difficult to locate infringing content. Infringers can easily repost content once it is taken down. Subpoenas require lengthy legal processes, and anonymous infringers often hide behind fake identities. Lawsuits can be expensive and time consuming given the effort required to detect infringers and build viable cases. Even if judgments are awarded, collecting damages from infringers, particularly those overseas, presents difficulties. Criminal cases

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<sup>71</sup> Timmers, Eur. Intell. Prop. Rev., vol. 33, 8 (2011).

<sup>72</sup> Grimmelman, Cornell L. Rev., vol. 93, 905 (2008).

require proving wilful intent and overcoming law enforcement resource constraints.

In India, copyright enforcement follows a similar civil litigation model. Rights holders can seek injunctions and damages under the Copyright Act. Provisions exist for criminal prosecution, although weak implementation renders such cases rare. India also implements a version of the DMCA notice and takedown system. However, cases tend to drag on for years in India's overburdened legal system. Damages awards are often paltry compared to litigation costs. India's understaffed police force lacks resources to pursue criminal charges. Persistent online piracy in India highlights gaps in practical enforcement capacity.

While the legal frameworks surrounding copyright provide enforcement options, challenges persist in translating those rights into on-the-ground protection and meaningful redress. Bridging enforcement gaps while balancing competing interests remains an evolving project. Effectiveness requires not just available legal remedies, but efficient procedures, adequate funding, law enforcement buy-in, and a nuanced understanding of technological and social realities. Absent those elements, infringers often operate freely, and rights holders struggle to find justice.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

With the borderless nature of the internet, copyright infringement in cyberspace inevitably crosses national boundaries. This creates complex jurisdictional issues and can limit the reach of national laws and enforcement. International cooperation has emerged as a key strategy for addressing cross-border online piracy. A major avenue for cooperation is through treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Chief among these is the WIPO Copyright Treaty, which requires parties to provide protections and remedies against technological circumvention of copyright safeguards.<sup>73</sup> The WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty requires protections for copyrighted content communicated over the internet.<sup>74</sup> Both the U.S. and India have signed and implemented these treaties via domestic legislation.<sup>75</sup> International trade agreements also promote standards for copyright protection. The

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<sup>73</sup> WIPO Copyright Treaty, Dec. 20, 1996, S. Treaty Doc. No. 105-17 (1997).

<sup>74</sup> WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, Dec. 20, 1996, S. Treaty Doc. No. 105-17 (1997).

<sup>75</sup> 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201-1205; Copyright (Amendment) Act 2012, No. 27, Acts of Parliament, 2012 (India).

Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), overseen by the World Trade Organization, obligates members to enforce copyright safeguards.<sup>76</sup>

The United States has pushed for elevated standards in bilateral and regional agreements like the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). India's trade agreements affirm TRIPS standards on intellectual property.<sup>77</sup> Increased information sharing and investigative assistance between national authorities represents another form of cooperation. Interpol and Europol facilitate communications between law enforcement. The U.S Department of Justice operates an Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordinator (IPLEC) program that engages with foreign counterparts.<sup>78</sup> Indian authorities have partnered with international agencies in efforts to combat offshore piracy enterprises.

While consensus building on shared copyright standards progresses through these channels, putting such standards into practice remains challenging. Jurisdictional gaps persist where infringing content spans international borders. Diplomatic hurdles arise when attempting to investigate foreign entities.<sup>79</sup> Disparities in national copyright laws and enforcement capacities hamper harmonized protection. And debates continue around balancing copyright with consumer access, privacy, and free expression. In recognition of these gaps, WIPO recently launched a Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies, seeking to update perspectives and identify solutions on emerging issues like artificial intelligence and online infringement.<sup>80</sup> Ongoing international dialogue and cooperative initiatives aim to enhance protections while mitigating conflicts across divergent national interests and legal frameworks. But seamless enforcement against borderless digital piracy remains an elusive target.

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<sup>76</sup> Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, Apr. 15, 1994, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C, 1869 U.N.T.S. 299.

<sup>77</sup> Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement Between India and Singapore, Art. 6.2, Jun. 29, 2005.

<sup>78</sup> U.S. Dep't of Justice, "Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordinator (IPLEC) Program", <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-opic/intellectual-property-law-enforcement-coordinator-iplec-program>. (last visited on July 10, 2023).

<sup>79</sup> Irina D. Manta, "Intellectual Property and the Presumption of Innocence", 56 Wm. & Mary L. Rev. 1745 (2015).

<sup>80</sup> WIPO, "WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property (IP) and Frontier Technologies", [https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/artificial\\_intelligence/conversation.html](https://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/artificial_intelligence/conversation.html). (last visited on July 10, 2023).

## IMPACT OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT ON CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Copyright protections aim to incentivize creativity and innovation by granting creators exclusive rights over their works.<sup>81</sup> However, widespread online copyright infringement threatens this incentive structure, depriving creators of returns on their efforts and investments. The stifling effects on future creative output are a chief concern underlying enforcement efforts. Empirical assessments quantify significant revenue losses and displaced sales attributed to digital piracy. One estimate pegged the global value of digitally pirated movies, music and software at \$213 billion in 2005.<sup>82</sup> Losses for the U.S. economy alone approached \$58 billion.<sup>83</sup> Such aggregate figures translate to billions in lost earnings for individual artists and companies. Beyond immediate revenue impacts, studies have sought to model effects on incentives for future innovation and creativity. A frequently cited linkage suggests that a 1% increase in piracy rates causes a 0.2% decrease in music sales.<sup>84</sup> Projecting over time, one analysis forecast a 15% decline in new music production over 5 years due to piracy. However, some experts debate the magnitude of piracy's deterrence effects. Research indicates that illegal downloading has differential impacts across media, with more pronounced substitution effects for movies than music. Other factors like sampling benefits may mitigate deterrence for certain creative works. But most economists agree that displacement of sales through copyright infringement is likely to reduce incentives at the margin.<sup>85</sup>

The threat to creative incentives spans developed and emerging economies. In the U.S., ongoing piracy despite robust enforcement efforts raises alarm over sustainability of current creative business models. Meanwhile, weak enforcement in India is blamed for the loss of an estimated 24% of music industry revenue. Indian box office totals suffer from widespread illegal Cam cording and streaming. Overall, while magnitudes and mechanisms remain debated, extensive evidence points to the dampening force of copyright infringement on incentives to invest time

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<sup>81</sup> Landes, William M., and Richard A. Posner. *The Economic Structure of Intellectual Property Law*. Harvard University Press, 2003.

<sup>82</sup> Frontier Economics, "Estimating the Global Economic and Social Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy" (2011).

<sup>83</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, "Intellectual Property: Observations on Efforts to Quantify the Economic Effects of Counterfeit and Pirated Goods", GAO-10-423 (2010).

<sup>84</sup> Rafael Rob and Joel Waldfogel, "Piracy on the High C's: Music Downloading, Sales Displacement, and Social Welfare in a Sample of College Students", 49 *Journal of Law & Economics* 29 (2006).

<sup>85</sup> Stan J. Liebowitz, "How much of the decline in sound recording sales is due to file-sharing?" 47 *Journal of Cultural Economics* 149 (2013).

and resources into innovative creative works. Ongoing trends thus reinforce arguments for strengthening copyright protections amid the digitization of media. Absent effective safeguards and enforcement, the viability of creative sectors faces an uncertain future.

## **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN CYBERSPACE**

Copyright infringement via digital technologies presents common challenges for both the United States and India. However, notable differences emerge in each country's legal frameworks and practical enforcement realities. The U.S. DMCA provides a statutory notice and takedown process for online piracy.<sup>86</sup> India's copyright rules contain similar provisions, but with higher burdens on rights holders. The U.S. grants extensive civil remedies against infringers, including significant statutory damages. India's civil remedies are constrained by low caps on damages. Wilful criminal infringement can lead to prison in the U.S. , while India rarely pursues criminal charges.

Resulting enforcement gaps appear in India's notably higher online piracy rates. Software piracy impacts 56% of software installed on Indian computers, versus 17% in the U.S. music piracy through stream ripping reached 142 million instances in India in 2017 versus 52 million in the U.S. Distinct structural factors underlie these trends. India's legal system struggles with extensive backlogs, delaying civil cases for years. Law enforcement lacks resources and training to pursue complex cybercrime. Lax customs enforcement enables import of pirated physical media. Weak IP awareness and social norms view piracy as acceptable, especially for entertainment content.

Conversely, the U.S. has specialized IP courts, well-funded enforcement agencies, and active trade-based IP monitoring programs . Robust criminal prosecutions and statutory damages create stronger deterrence, with fines up to \$150,000 per infringed work. Acceptance of creator rights spans public and private sectors. However, the U.S. also faces barriers around proof, anonymity, and jurisdiction over foreign pirates. And private litigation models, while potent, have sparked free speech concerns.<sup>87</sup> Ongoing debates weigh appropriate sanctions and process norms.

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<sup>86</sup> 17 U.S.C. § 512.

<sup>87</sup> Electronic Frontier Foundation, "Copyright and Online Enforcement", <https://www.eff.org/issues/copyright-and-online-enforcement>. (last visited on July 10, 2023).

## CONCLUSION

Copyright protections aim to spur creativity and innovation by granting creators exclusive rights over their works. However, the digitization of media content coupled with internet distribution networks have enabled unprecedented scales of copyright infringement through online piracy. Resulting losses for rights holder's likely curb incentives for future creative output. While the legal foundations of copyright establish enforcement mechanisms, practical barriers persist in translating those rights into on-the-ground protection. In the United States, the DMCA provides a statutory notice and takedown process for online piracy. Extensive civil remedies including injunctions, damages, and attorney's fees enable rights holders to pursue infringers. Criminal sanctions are also available for wilful infringement. However, locating anonymous infringers and building viable cases remains complex and resource intensive. Questions around proper balancing of interests and process protections continue to evolve.

India possesses similar legal foundations as the U.S., having implemented WIPO internet treaties into national legislation. India's copyright law allows civil litigation and criminal charges. However, practical results against online piracy lag significantly behind the U.S., with notably higher rates across media sectors. Systemic factors like overburdened courts, under-resourced law enforcement, lax customs controls, and low public awareness contribute to weak on-the-ground protection. Improving enforcement realities to match legal frameworks remains a key imperative in both countries. Doing so requires multi-pronged approaches spanning law, technology, business strategy, and public education. Even if gaps persist, stronger deterrent effects likely occur where comprehensive efforts align across sectors.

On the legal front, policy reforms should aim to enhance procedural efficiency, provide adequate statutory penalties, and allocate sufficient public enforcement resources. Technological measures like digital rights management, content filtering, and site-blocking enable defensive strategies, although risks around over blocking merit ongoing oversight. Business model innovations that provide affordable, convenient access to content can help shift social norms over time. And educational campaigns to promote respect for creator rights, particularly among youth demographics, support wider culture change. In India especially, a radical shift in attitudes and priorities across government, industry and the public will be essential to meaningful progress. While piracy may never be fully eradicated, active commitment on multiple fronts can continually raise the bar and shift the equilibrium toward creator incentives.

The internet's borderless nature reinforces the need for international cooperation and consistency. Treaties, trade agreements and enhanced agency coordination help align protections in law and practice. But tensions between copyright and competing policy goals like access, privacy and expression continue to be navigated. Ultimately, there are no silver bullets. But the multi-faceted nature of the piracy challenge should not foster resignation. Rather, it highlights the range of complementary options available, and the need for balanced approaches. With diligent effort across disciplines, enforcement realities may progressively edge closer to the protections that copyright law intends to provide. Though the destination remains distant, the trajectory matters. creative sectors depend on that positive direction for their long-term vitality.

