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# Digital Reproduction of News and Copyright Protection in the Online Journalism Industry

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## ABSTRACT

*The rapid growth of digital media and online journalism has significantly transformed the creation, dissemination, and consumption of news content. While digital platforms have enhanced public access to information, they have simultaneously posed serious challenges to the protection of copyright in journalistic works. This study critically examines the issue of digital reproduction of news and the adequacy of existing copyright laws in addressing unauthorized copying, distribution, and reuse of journalistic content in the online environment. Using a doctrinal and comparative research methodology, the paper analyses legal frameworks under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, international conventions such as the Berne Convention and WIPO Copyright Treaty, and comparative approaches in the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union. The study highlights emerging challenges such as content scraping, plagiarism, artificial intelligence-assisted reproduction, and the growing role of news aggregators and social media platforms. It finds that traditional copyright laws are ill-suited to handle the speed, scale, and cross-border nature of digital infringement. The paper concludes by proposing legal and policy reforms aimed at strengthening copyright enforcement while ensuring a balance with freedom of expression and the public's right to access information. The research contributes to the evolving discourse on intellectual property protection in the digital journalism ecosystem.*

**Keywords:** Digital Reproduction of News, Copyright Protection, Online Journalism, Indian Copyright Act, 1957, Fair Dealing and Fair Use

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. The idea of copyright and online duplication

Copyright is a legal privilege that grants creators of original works in the literary, artistic, musical and dramatic works the protection of their intellectual property against abusive usage. In ancient times, the issue of copyright protection was limited to the printed media like books,

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newspapers and magazines. Nevertheless, the emergence of the quick technological advancement has brought about a concept of digital reproduction. This is the process that entails copying, storing, transmitting, or spreading of content electronically through the Internet and electronic platforms. However, in contrast to traditional reproductions printed on the paper, digital reproductions may be created and shared immediately and at a very very low cost, which causes the enforcement of the copyright to become very difficult. Digital reproduction, when applied to the sphere of journalism, has transformed the way in which news is produced, published and consumed and made copyright protection more complex and open to abuse.

### **B. Development of Digital Media and Online Journalism**

Digital media have seen a rise exponentially over the last two decades especially in the news and journalism industry. Old newspapers have created web portals, and standalone digital news sources have gathered large audiences. The access to information has changed through the social media, news aggregators, blogs, and mobile applications. Smartphones, websites and social networks have exposed the audiences to real time news. Although this has facilitated the access of information and democratic participation, it is at the same time, increasing the chances of unauthorized copying of news material. Numerous publications are often copied, shared, and republished without the necessary attribution and consent, and this issue provokes both legal and moral issues in the minds of the authors of the content.

### **C. Statement of the Problem**

The main issue that the given research aims to investigate is the challenge of protecting journalistic content that is becoming more challenging in the virtual environment. The fact that an online copying and distribution of information is easy has made the line between fair sharing and copyright infringement unclear. The news houses are putting much resources in research, reporting, editing and publication. However, such content is being copied by third-party websites, news aggregators, and users of social media on a regular basis, without permission, and this causes a loss of revenue and intellectual property rights. The current copyright legislation, written mostly in the pre-digital age, is ill-prepared to control modern issues like content scraping, hyperlinking, reproduction by AI, and transnational spreading of news. This paper will examine such legal gaps and specifically news and journalism business.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

This study will be meaningful in a number of ways. To begin with, it adds to the academic knowledge on the adaptation of the copyright law on technological progress. Secondly, it throws light on the difficulties journalists and media organisations are experiencing in defending their

work in the digital ecosystem. Thirdly, the results have practical significance to policymakers, legal practitioners and media professionals, who want to reconcile the freedom of expression and protection of intellectual property. A free and an independent press is critical in a democratic society and thus, strong legal coverage of journalistic work is not only necessary on economic basis but also in protecting integrity and credibility of news delivery. It further presupposes an increased topicality in the times of artificial intelligence, where content can be reproduced and re-mixing in the manner previously unimaginable due to the extent of automated systems.

#### **E. Scope and Limitations of the study.**

This research is limited to the topic of the digital reproduction of the copyrighted news. It targets both print and online journalism, which includes online news portals, news aggregators, and social media. The entertainment media, software copyright, or any other forms of intellectual property is out of the scope of the study unless it is directly relevant to news reproduction. A weakness of this study is that the use of technology is rapidly changing and this change could surpass legal changes. Also, the issue of enforcement of cross-border digital environments is complicated and cannot be entirely accomplished in the frame of the current study.

## **II. LEGAL FRAMEWORKS REGULATING THE DIGITAL NEWS CONTENT**

### **A. Global copyright system: WIPO and Berne Conventions**

The legal system of the protection of news content in digital space is dominated by the Berne Convention on the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty, 1996. According to the Berne Convention, the principles of automatic protection of literary works including journalistic writings are set, and the formal registration is avoided. It also outlines minimum protective standards which include the right to reproduction, to adaptation and to communicating with the public.

As digitised technologies appeared, the WIPO Copyright Treaty included the provisions that directly refer to the digital transmission of works and online use of the works under the copyright. The Treaty provides more protection of digital contents by considering rights that are associated with electronic distribution and technological protection measures (TPMs). These international standards then affect the domestic laws on copyright including the laws that have been adopted in India and hence shapes the responses to challenges presented by the digital reproduction of news.

### **B. Copyright Act, 1957 and Digital Adaptations, India.**

Copyright Act, 1957 in India is the basic law that controls the copyright protection of literary work and this law clearly includes news articles, editorial content and any journalistic materials. The original Act is older than the internet age, but several amendments, such as the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 have added amendments that are relevant in the digital environment.

The Act grants copyright owners the exclusive rights such that they have the right to make copies of the work, keep them, and send them to the mass media by electronics. Therefore, online reproduction, hosting and electronic distribution of news materials are all legitimate statutory copyright protection. Information Technology Act of 2000 also adds more weight to protection of copyright by recognizing electronic records and prescribing penalties on cyber violations.

### **C. Fair Dealing and News Reporting Exceptions.**

An important aspect of the law system is the doctrine of fair dealing which authorizes exceptions to the protection of copyright. Section 52 of Indian Copyright Act allows certain use of the copyright material that do not require the permission of the copyright holder, which includes: the material is to be used in personal study, research, criticism, review, and reportage of the ongoing events.

In journalism, fair dealing is used in two purposes that include protecting the freedom of the press and on the other hand, preventing unauthorized commercial use of news content. It has always been emphasized by the courts that fair dealing has to be considered in the light of the purpose, nature and the extent of the use. When an excessive duplication, commercial reproduction or wholesale republication of individual articles is carried out without giving proper attribution, then this usually falls beyond the scope of fair dealing.

### **D. Ethical Privileges in Digital News**

The subject of moral rights is a critical, but often overlooked aspect of copyright protection in journalism. In Section 57, Indian Copyright Act gives special rights to the author to claim authorship; to prevent or to claim damages of any distortion, mutilation or alteration of their work which infringes on their reputation.

Moral rights are repeatedly violated in digital news industry in illicit editing, misleading headlines, and repackaging of journalistic content by third party websites and social media platforms. These rights guarantee that the journalists should not lose the recognition of their work and that any actions that threaten the professional integrity can be challenged in court.

### **E. Licensing and Collective Rights Management.**

Licensing is one of the key legal tools, which will help the legal reproduction of news content in a digital form. Media houses always sign licensing agreements with digital platforms, aggregators and syndication services in order to be in a position to exploit their content lawfully. These licences provide the extent of application, time, area and payment plans.

Rights and royalties are administered by Collective Management Organisations (CMOs), copyright societies. Licensing in the digital era has developed to include digital syndication, paywalls and subscription-based access models, to reconcile accessibility of information to news with the economic sustainability of news businesses.

### **F. Regulatory Authority and Judge Interpretation.**

The courts and the regulatory organelles have a decisive authority in explaining and administering the copyright law in relation to the digital news. Indian courts have passed verdicts in cases of internet infringement, replica reproduction and the liability of intermediary. The courts take a moderate approach to protect the intellectual property interests and the constitutional rights, especially the freedom of speech and expression as stated in Article 19(1)(a).

Government bodies like copyright office and cyber enforcement agencies are very essential in dealing with copyright infringement in the internet. The changing interpretation of digital reproduction, hyperlinking, framing and aggregation of news content is guided by judicial precedents in the absence of specific statutory provisions.

The legal system of digital news content is a complex interplay of international standards, national laws, judicial interpretation of the law, and policy processes. Although the Indian Copyright Act provides a solid basis on which the protection of digital journalistic works can be carried out, the ever-changing technological situation requires continuous adjustments. This framework is an essential component of the analysis of the legal issues that the news and journalism industry are facing in the digital age.

## **I. NEWS INDUSTRY: PROBLEMS OF DIGITAL REPRODUCTION**

### **A. Unauthorized Reproduction and Republishing of News Material**

Illegal copying and republishing of original news work is one of the most burning issues facing the news and the journalism sector in the digital age. It has become extremely easy now with the spread of sites, blogs and independent digital platforms to copy articles, editorials and investigation reports and publish on the internet without the permission of the original publisher.

This acts not only against the copyright law but also a blow to the viability of professional journalism.

The illegal duplication has become easy and fast through digital gadgets like copy 3, paste, screen capturing software, and mirror software of a Web site. Minor digital platforms tend to copy the whole content of articles or manipulate the headlines to avoid detection. This behavior will discourage original reporting, since the media houses lose motivation and earnings, and the unscrupulous offenders will enjoy unjust enrichment because they are able to generate online traffic without having to burden their pocket to produce journalism.

### **B. Copyright in News Aggregation Systems.**

Google News, Flipboard and a host of other content curation web sites have fundamentally transformed the modalities of news consumption by the audience. These sites compound headlines, summaries and snippets that have been sourced by a host of news outlets, and all of this is contained on one interface. Although this kind of aggregation increases the accessibility, it also spawns serious copyright issues.

The jurisdictional issue revolves around whether the presentation of headlines and short snippets should be known either as a fair use or fair dealing or infringement. The publishers argue that the aggregators gain a commercial advantage through the content without paying any license fee but the aggregators claim that they are just giving links which redirect the traffic to the original sources. Lack of concrete legal standards to define the scope of reproduction that can be undertaken leads to a lot of doubt and multiple court cases.

### **C. Plagiarism, content scraping and AI-assisted reproduction**

The problem of plagiarism is still one that is troubling digital journalism. Robots which run articles out of web server and repackage them in different locations have gained more and more popularity. These scraping organizations are usually run under the anonymity, thereby blurring the legal redress.

It is further complicated by the introduction of Artificial Intelligence tools that can instantly rewrite, summarize, and paraphrase news articles. The products created by these instruments are the content that, although formally new, is actually a derivative based on copyrighted journalistic content. Legally, it is painful, proving that infringement occurred when the outputs of AI do not reproduce the original text in the form of a copy, but reproduce its structure, ideas and phrases. Thus, a gray area is created in the copyright law, a gray area that the conventional legal systems are not well equipped to handle.

#### **D. Legal Problems of the Social Media Sharing and Hyperlinking.**

Social media networks, such as Facebook, X (previously Twitter), Instagram, and WhatsApp, are crucial in the distribution of news. Users frequently post the snapshots, the entire articles, or text snippets of news websites. Although the process of providing a link is typically legal, copying of full articles or pay content attracts severe copyright issues.

The dilemma is to strike a balance between the right of people to information and the intellectual property rights of people who make the content. Hyperlinking in and of itself is usually not considered infringement, but embedding or framing content in such a way that avoids the monetization processes of its original publisher can be an unethical communication to the general public. Furthermore, viral distribution makes it practically unfeasible to use publishers to encourage distribution when the content leaves their control.

#### **E. Economic Effect of Digital Piracy on News Organizations.**

Digital piracy has severely affected the economic sustainability of the traditional and digital news organisations. The source of the income of advertising, which was the backbone of journalistic business, has suffered a steep fall due to pirated materials that drain the traffic that could have reached the legal sites. Subsequently-based models are also disadvantaged as the premium or paywalled articles are shared through Telegram channels, WhatsApp groups, or pirate websites.

Smaller regional and local newspapers are more affected disproportionately without the technological and fiscal resources to check and reverse infringement. The broader effects in the long run are the loss of the quality of journalism, reduction of workforce, and loss of investment on the investigating reporting elements hence loss of democratic accountability.

#### **F. Technology Problems in the Protection of Digital News.**

Technology is a blessing that enables fast dissemination of news and on the other hand creates immense barriers to enforcement. DRM software, watermarking and paywalls are used to secure data, but are often bypassed by tech-savvy people. Protected material is easily captured and redistributed by using screen-capturing software and browser extensions.

Another hindrance is the anonymity of violators. Websites can be hosted in other countries, use proxy server and hide behind a virtual identity, making the legal action expensive and ineffective. Mirror sites sprout quickly even in situations where infringement websites have been blocked. Also, the systems of copyright protection are generally slower in pace with the speed of digital piracy. Most content can have gained a widespread distribution even before

takedown notices are addressed.

### **G. Cross-border and Jurisdiction Enforcement.**

The international nature of the internet has posed an enormous challenge on the jurisdictional issues in copyright enforcement in the news industry. A website containing counterfeit information can be located in a different country and be run by an operator in a different country and accessed by users globally. Copyright laws in individual countries have a territorial scope, which makes the process of cross-border enforcement incredibly complicated.

The treaties of mutual legal assistance and international conventions are there, but the practical implementation is slow and overloaded with bureaucracy. Therefore, numerous news companies avoid suing because costs are prohibitive and no one can be certain of a successful suit, and thus the efficacy of copyright protection in the digital environment is compromised.

### **H. Tension between Right to Information by the Population and Copyright Protection.**

A peculiar conflict that faces the news industry is the problem of copyright security and the freedom of information of the people. News is not a commercial good, but it is also a fundamental part of a democratic government, and information to the citizens. Excessive application of copyright can hamper access to crucial information, especially when it is needed in an emergency, in an election, or when the government needs to investigate a matter of public interest.

On the contrary, lack of copyright protection would undermine the quality of journalism because free-riders would take advantage of the original work. Such a tension requires carefully designed law that will protect the journalistic labour and allow the free flow of information.

Re-production of news material through digital means has simultaneously raised complex legal, technological, and economic issues to the journalism sector. Social media releases, aggregation contentious issues, AI-generated material, unauthorized copying, and cross-border law enforcement challenges are all challenges towards the classical copyright model. At the same time, there is a need to maintain the freedom of speech and the right of people to the information that is going to be put across in a subtle manner of law. Without the modernization of reforms and the implementation of sound technological protection, professional journalism in the digital age laments the viability of its future existence in a precarious state.

## **II. COMPARATIVE AND JUDICIAL ANALYSIS.**

### **A. Comparative Analysis of the Copyright Laws in India, USA, UK and European Union**

The digital reproduction of news content has received varied response in terms of regulation across different jurisdictions hence, capturing different legal traditions, policy priorities, and levels of technological adaptation. The Copyright Act 1957 in India provides statutory protection of literary works, which include journalistic works (e.g. news articles, editorials and investigative reportage). Indian laws follow mostly the principles that are contained in the Berne Convention and as such, provide the automatic protection which is not registered and recognition of both the economic and moral rights.

On the other hand, the Copyright Act of 1976, which governs the United States, has been bearing a paradigm that is specifically commercial, where the commercial effect of infringement on the market is greatly considered in the infringement judgment under the doctrine of fair use. The copyright laws of the United Kingdom, governed by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, also protect literary works, but use a much stricter system of fair dealing over the generous U.S. fair use doctrine. The law of the European Union has tried to unify the laws of member-states by means of directives like Digital Single Market Directive (2019) and thus integrate certain statements, which refer to the rights of publishers of press, into it.

Whereas in India and the United Kingdom statutory restrictions are enforced through the concept of fair dealing, in the United States, judges have greater freedom to exercise broader interpretative discretion through the concept of fair use. On the contrary, the European Union has made strides towards strong defense of the news publishers by providing them with adjacent rights over the use of their content digitally. These conceptual differences highlight the legal difficulty of devising a common law answer to the international issue of digital replication of journalistic material.

### **B. A judicial decision to permit online reproduction of news content in digital form has been made in the past**

The role of judicial interpretation in drawing the boundaries of copyright protection of news and journalism is important. Courts have progressively modified the principles of copyright traditionally in an attempt to deal with the new challenges presented by the digital media.

The judiciary in India has continuously argued that, even though facts do not qualify as a subject to copyright, the originality of expressing the facts in a news article is copyrighted. The dichotomy (idea) (expression) has been emphasized by the courts, thus validating the notion that even though news events fall under the common sphere, the presentation, formulation and analysis done by journalists are safeguarded.

To a large extent, courts in the United States have made relevant precedents regarding digital

reproduction. The four-factor fair-use test of purpose of use, nature of the work, amount used, and market effect has often been administered by American adjudicatory bodies. Cases of reproduction of digital news have challenged the parameters of transformative use, aggregation and parody.

The courts of the United Kingdom have supported a strict understanding of fair dealing in that the use of copyrighted news material should be limited to the purposes of reporting current events, criticism or review. The judicial rulings in the European Union and particularly in the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have highlighted the need to strike a balance between freedom of expression and high-level copyright protection imposed on digital news publishers.

These historic rulings underscore the fact that the judiciary is increasingly realizing that digital reproduction of news material has substantive consequences to the viability of journalism.

### **C. Intermediary Liability and safe harbour provisions**

Among the most debatable areas of law in reproduction of digital news, there is a question of the liability of online intermediaries, such as search engines, social media platforms, and newsaggregator websites. Such intermediaries regularly carry, connect, or preview copyrighted news material, thus creating a controversy about their legal role.

In India, the intermediary liability is regulated by the Information Technology Act, 2000, that provides a so-called safe harbour to the intermediaries on the condition of passing the due diligence test and no active involvement in infringement. The substantive ambiguity is in the definition of what point a platform turns into an active participant and it becomes a passive facilitator.

The United States on the other hand grants the intermediary protection under Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) that provides safe harbour to online service providers who hastily take down infringing content when notified to do so. The notice-and-takedown mechanism has become a universal standard of reference, but has often been accused of being responsive and not proactive.

Similar safeguards are codified in the United Kingdom and the European Union within the E-Commerce Directive, but the more recent EU Digital Services Act places even greater responsibility on the platform as it relates to content moderation. Jurisdictional courts are now questioning the extent to which the sharing of news on the internet should be held responsible by news aggregators and the social media when they are in a better position to commercially exploit the reproduction rights of that news.

#### **D. Tension between Freedom of the Press and Copyright Protection**

One significant area of academic and judicial controversy is the conflict between the freedom of the press and aggressive action on copyright law. On the one hand, journalism thrives on free flow of information and the right of the people to know; on the other hand, illegal replication online cuts the economic basis of the professional journalism.

To have a balance, the Indian courts have strived to acknowledge both the Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which protects the freedom of speech and expression, and the copyright law rights of content makers. It has been repeatedly judged by courts that reasonable limitations are allowed in the name of intellectual property protection.

In the United States, copyright matters often depend on First Amendment issues, especially where the speech involved is political or a report on a matter of public interest and transformative use. The courts strive to prevent the possibility of such interpretations that would instill one with a chilling effect to free speech.

The European courts have stressed on proportionality, so that copyright enforcement does not substantially overstep on media freedom. However, the situation seems to be changing with the introduction of press-publisher rights to the EU with greater protection being given to news organisations.

The fact that this conflict is still going on is indicative of the complexity that goes into the design of a legal framework that both secures the journalists and upholds the principles of democracy.

#### **E. Technological Protection Measures (TPM) and Digital Rights Management (DRM)**

The use of technology to support legal mechanisms in eliminating unauthorized digital reproduction has continued to be used in conjunction. Technological Protection Measures (TPM) involve encryption, paywalls, watermarking, and access-control systems which are used in hindering duplication and dissemination of news content.

TM purposes in India have been recognised through the Copyright Act, which gives legal remedy to TPMs; breaking through such protection is an offence under certain conditions. But the implementation is still poor, and a lot of news organisations do not have access to the developed technological infrastructure.

Digital Rights Management (DRM) systems in the United States and the European Union have legal strong support, and their circumvention is severely punished. However, some critics argue that these guidelines have the potential to inhibit legitimate business operations like fair dealing, scholarly research, and reporting in the best of the interests. The general rule that courts have

supported is that technological safeguards should be implemented but at the same time they have stressed that statutory exceptions should not be superseded by technological safeguards. As a result, the interaction of law and technology has taken a centre stage in emerging copyright law enforcement in the news industry.

#### **F. The cross-border digital reproduction and the jurisdictional issues**

The electronic replication of the news material often occurs beyond the national concern, thus making it difficult to enforce and define jurisdiction. An article of news in one sovereign territory can be reproduced, republished or doctored instantly in a different jurisdiction and it is hard to tell what law applies. Indian courts are generally guided by territoriality principles but there is a lot of difficulty in trying to practically implement it on foreign actors. There are mutual legal assistance treaties and systems of international cooperation, but they tend to be slow and inefficient in a rapid digital environment.

It is the case of the effects doctrine used by the United States courts which state that they have the jurisdiction to take actions in cases where the foreign digital activity has a significant impact in U.S. soil. The European Union has made efforts to align its enforcement across the member states, but there is still occurrence of conflict of law in cross-border digital infringement cases. The presence of these jurisdictional problems highlights why there is an urgent need to collaborate internationally and create legal frameworks that could be used to tackle the issue of digital news reproduction within a globalised digital ecosystem.

A comparative and judicial map study reveals that although legal systems all over the world acknowledge the essence of ensuring journalistic content protection, each has significant differences in its practices regarding digital reproduction. Courts are slowly redefining the law around technological realities, but still there are inconsistencies, on the enforcement, on responsibility of the intermediary, and on cross-border regulation. The future of democratic societies cannot be achieved without a balanced model that will protect the freedom of expression and the economic viability of journalism.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION FINDINGS**

#### **A. Key Findings of the Study**

The paper has established that the art of reproduction in terms of copyright protection in the news and journalism sector has been completely changed by digital reproduction. Among the most important discoveries is that the traditional copyright laws were initially designed to address print media, and hence are not completely sufficient to address the pace, volume and

the complexity that is present in online distribution. The internet makes it easy to copy, redistribute and edit the news information and thus this makes it extremely hard to enforce it.

The study also found that the unlicensed reproduction using the Web, mobile applications, social media, and news aggregators had become common and it is mostly done without due credit and licensing. Moreover, news organisations and journalists lose their economic sense and face damage to reputation due to plagiarism, content scraping, and unfair usage of fair dealing. The research also notes that despite the legal frameworks, poor technological infrastructure and slow courts reduce the effectiveness of the latter.

### **B. Legal Deficiencies in the Current Legal System.**

The study finds that the legal framework that controls digital reproduction has a number of gaps. Originally, there is no clear definition of reproduction in the copyright law in digital environment especially with regard to temporary storage, caching and hyperlinking. Second, the provisions of fair dealing are unclear and have been inconsistently applied in the courts hence creating confusion to both the content creators and users. Third, one of the greatest loopholes is the lack of concrete regulatory rules concerning news aggregators and online platforms where journalistic material is hosted or monetised. Liability of intermediaries is not clear, particularly when it comes to the sharing of content and artificial intelligence. Lastly, the enforcement mechanisms are old fashion and unable to effectively respond to cross-border digital infringement; and there is visibly no specialised tribunal or fast-track court to effectively resolve the cases of digital copyright infringement of news content.

### **C. Legal and Policy Reform Recommendations**

In accordance with the results, the research suggests a number of legal and policy revolutions. First, there is the need to amend the copyright laws to include clear clauses covering the digital reproduction, temporary copies and distribution online. News aggregators and digital platforms should be provided with specific statutory guidelines that will ensure licensing fairness and sharing of revenue with original publishers. Second, more clear and balanced fair dealing provisions are to be formulated including a clear demarcating of the range to which news reporting, criticism and public interest may be used. It is suggested to establish specialised intellectual property benches or digital copyright tribunals in order to speed up the resolution of such disputes. Third, more robust intermediary liability systems must be established, where platforms need to embrace proactive content detection systems. Legal incentives and regulatory assistance should promote the use of digital watermarking, content fingerprinting, and monitoring technologies based on artificial intelligence. Standardised licensing structures

should also be encouraged by the policy makers to ease the licensing and conflict minimisation.

#### **D. Freedom of Press and Copyright Protection vs. Copyright.**

An important point that this research has revealed is the need to find a compromise between the freedom of press and copyright. Although copyright is aimed at protecting economic and moral rights of journalists and publishers, overregulation can stop free information circulation. The study concludes that the copyright law should be interpreted in a way that safeguard the democratic values, access to information by the people, and the independence of the journalism. The fair dealing exceptions must not be abused to exploit the business, but should be left to honest and genuine public-interest reporting, educational and criticism. Only in the case of judicial sensitivity, reproducible regulatory criteria and a uniformity of legal interpretations, which take into account the constitutional freedoms and intellectual property rights, a balanced framework is possible.

#### **E. Future Problems with Digital Journalism.**

The research paper pinpoints the emerging challenges to develop the relationship between copyright and journalism further. The emergence of artificial intelligence, automated news generators, and deep-fake technologies poses new threats of content theft and fake news/information. Transnational publishing of the digital news produces jurisdictional issues and undermines enforcement. The increasing power of international tech platforms has similarly changed revenue patterns, hence decreasing financial survival of conventional media and raising reliance on digital middlemen. The paper stresses that any legal framework that is going to be used in the future, has to be technologically adapt, international balanced and institutionally capacity building to continue being effective in defending journalistic material.

#### **F. Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study establishes that while copyright law provides a foundational framework for protecting news and journalistic content, it faces serious challenges in the digital environment. The ease of reproduction, rapid dissemination, and anonymous infringement have weakened traditional enforcement mechanisms. There is an urgent need for legal modernization, policy reforms, and technological integration to ensure effective protection. The study concludes that a balanced and forward-looking legal framework, supported by judicial innovation and regulatory clarity, is essential for sustaining the integrity, independence, and economic viability of the news and journalism industry in the digital age.

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