Connection, Collaboration, and Community:
Creative Commons

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ABSTRACT

This article describes how building up on the foundation of knowledge created by the previous scholars is the base of any scholarly communication. Usually scholars also willing to share their findings to others to gain guidance, approval and recognition. The user should use the shared information while protecting moral and legal rights of the authors. To protect the creator's intellectual property rights, copyright and other legal schemes were introduced. However, these legal frameworks became too rigid for users to use the shared data. Sometimes even when the creator is willing to share the data, h/she could not do the same due to copyright bindings. This gave rise to need for a supporting legal framework which protects the rights of the authors and allows him/her to share her work willingly as per the chosen criteria. The license should be easy to prepare, understand and share. Creative Commons offers the required types of licenses which are globally approved. The article discusses about the background, attributes and advantages and challenges of Creative Common's licenses.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

Collaboration: Need of Scholarly Communication

Communication is the key of scholarship. New researches are based on scholarly communication of other thinkers. Timely communication triggers new ideas, avoids redundancy in efforts and keeps the researchers on the right path. Free flow of authentic information is the essence of scholastic development which leads to overall welfare of the world. This need of sharing of information is as old as the mankind. Researchers developed their own modes of sharing information with like-minded people such as

invisible college, private networks, cryptic messages etc. Digital information and internet made sharing of knowledge faster and efficient.

Academic norms have always promoted open sharing of research findings and creative scholarship. Internet and digital information introduced new ways of collaboration and sharing of information. A few are discussed below.

Open Source Initiative

The campaign was launched in 1998. Open source is a term describing a means of developing and distributing software that ensures software is available for use, modification, and redistribution by anyone. The open source community promotes the creation of software that is not proprietary, resulting in lower costs. Generally, anyone can download open source software for little or no cost, and can use, share, borrow, or change it without restriction. A major advantage to open source code is the ability for a variety of different people to edit and fix problems and errors that have occurred. Naturally because there are more people who can edit the material there are more people who can help make the information more credible and reliable. The open source mission statement promises better quality, higher reliability, more flexibility, lower cost, and an end to predatory vendor lock-in. For almost every requirement ranging from accounting to audio recording and project management to screenplay writing there is a powerful open source solution is available as an option to expensive commercial software. To name a few: Mozilla Firefox (Web Browser), VLC Media Player (Portable Multimedia Player), encoder, and streamer, Odoo (Business Application), Gimp (Graphic Application), etc.

E-Book Initiative

Project Gutenberg is a first E book initiative in the world, established by Michael S. Hart in 1971. It is aimed to digitize the books in public domain and make it available to readers across the globe. Many more such projects are initiated worldwide. To name a few: Google books, internet archive, Europeana, Open library, etc.

Open Access Journals

Open access (OA) journals are scholarly journals that are available online to the reader without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. While open access journals are freely available to the reader, there are still costs associated with the publication and production of such journals. Some are subsidized, and some require payment on behalf of the author. The Directory of Open Access Journals currently lists over 9428 open access journals.

Open Institutional Repositories

An institutional repository is an archive for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution. Worldwide institutions are starting to implement digital institutional repositories to improve the visibility, usage and impact of research conducted by the

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