Intellectual Property Rights Implications on Content Curation and Aggregation in Digital Libraries

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ABSTRACT

Purpose Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast quantities of information on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organised manner. It involves sifting, sorting, arranging and publishing information in a way that best meets the interest and context of the users. Content aggregation, on the other hand, is the process of collecting content automatically from diverse sources on the web and presenting the same in one location so that the users can access it easily without having to visit each of the sources individually. Given that content curation and aggregation involves content from diverse sources, there are several intellectual property rights issues that can emerge from the collection and use of the curated and aggregated content. This paper investigates the intellectual property rights issues which digital librarians may have to deal with as they curate and aggregate content for their users.

Methodology This study is designed as an exploratory research because the concepts of curation and aggregation are relatively new. Again, it is intended to stimulate discussions on this subject. Data will be collected through key informant interviews with librarians in charge of institutional repositories in academic libraries in Kenya. Additional data will be collected through literature review.

Findings The findings of the study are expected to reveal the extent to which digital librarians in Kenya curate and aggregate content for their users; the software used for content curation and aggregation; the intellectual rights challenges they have or are likely to encounter with curated and aggregated content; the strategies digital libraries in Kenya may use to mitigate intellectual property risks brought about through content curation and aggregation.

Practical Implications The findings of this study may be used by digital librarians to identify and mitigate the risks associated with content curation and aggregation.

Originality Literature on curation and aggregation by digital libraries in Kenya is limited, if not non-existent. This is an original study which will contribute new information about an emerging role of librarians.

Keywords: Content curation, content aggregation, e-content, intellectual property rights, digital libraries