

Electronic information resources in Arab intellectual property rights legislation and laws: an exploratory study

Research – Methodology

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Abstract

This research paper aims to explore the extent to which intellectual property laws in Arab countries include provisions related to electronic and Internet-published information sources. The study seeks to identify the availability of intellectual property protection laws and whether these laws have been updated to cover new forms of electronic information sources.

The study's findings reveal that there are intellectual property laws in 17 Arab countries. All these laws include provisions on computer programs, but only five laws address databases as an electronic information source. Moreover, all the intellectual property laws in Arab countries have overlooked provisions regarding electronic information sources published on the Internet.

Keywords

Electronic resources, law and legislation, Arab countries

1. Methodology

1.1. Study Objectives

The primary aim of this study is to examine the Arab legislation and laws related to intellectual property to determine their coverage of intellectual property rights in the digital age, where electronic information sources are prevalent. The study seeks to understand how well Arab laws cover modern information sources, such as electronic sources and internet-published materials. The study also aims to achieve several secondary objectives, which include:

1. Identifying intellectual property legislation issued in the Arab world.
2. Exploring the extent to which intellectual property laws in 10 Arab countries cover electronic and internet-published information sources.
3. Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of Arab legislation.

1.2. Study Questions

1. How prevalent are intellectual property protection laws in Arab countries?
2. To what extent are Arab laws updated, and how well do they keep up with modern technological developments in the field of information publishing and broadcasting?
3. Do Arab legislations cover electronic information sources and internet-published materials?

1.3. Scope of the Study

The study covers the topic of intellectual property and its related legislation and laws. The theoretical aspect includes defining intellectual property and reviewing the legislation issued in ten Arab countries. The study focuses on the legislation in the following ten countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Tunisia, Qatar, Morocco, Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman, Yemen, and Sudan.

1.4. Study Methodology

The study primarily employs a survey methodology to examine the intellectual property rights legislation in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Tunisia, as well as international agreements and legislations.