APPG for IP - Discussion on Text and Data Mining

Wed, 22 Jan 2025

Summary:

The meeting focused on the pressing concerns of the creative industry regarding proposed reductions in copyright protections for AI usage. Joshua Richards opened the discussion by highlighting the need for transparency in AI operations, allowing rights holders to understand how their works are utilized. Dan Guthrie emphasized the urgency of cross-party support to protect the creative sector while acknowledging AI's potential benefits.

Dan Conway from the Publishers Association proposed establishing a model for transparency and enforceability, while Tom Goldie introduced the Rights Reservation Mechanism as a safeguard for creators. The complexities of opt-out mechanisms were also discussed, with Richards noting the burdensome nature of notifying multiple AI service providers and the ineffectiveness of current methods like robots.txt files for music rights holders.

The conversation further delved into the financial struggles of artists, with Rima Salehi revealing that many earn below the median wage, underscoring the need for a strong copyright framework. Barbara Hayes presented survey results indicating that a significant majority of authors want permission and remuneration before their works are used in AI. The inadequacies of an opt-out system were highlighted, with both Richards and Hayes advocating for a robust copyright system that supports creators while allowing for innovation.

Joshua Richards concluded by stressing the importance of mobilizing support for amendments, encouraging organizations to engage with MPs and submit detailed responses to consultations. He called for a strategic approach to lobbying, emphasizing the need for the creative sector to assert its value in the evolving landscape shaped by AI.

Chapters & Topics:

**Discussion on Copyright Protection and AI in Creative Industries**

Joshua Richards opened the discussion by noting the significant attendance from various creative industry representatives, reflecting their concerns about proposed changes to copyright laws affecting AI. Dan Guthrie stressed the urgency of the matter and the need for parliamentary support, while also recognizing the opportunities that responsible AI use could bring. The conversation included a focus on the importance of transparency in AI practices to ensure fair compensation for content creators.

\* Concerns about the proposed reduction of copyright protection for creative industries.

\* The role of AI in the creative sector and the need for responsible use.

\* Strategies for mobilizing support from parliamentarians and the creative community in response to the consultation.

**Challenges of Opt-Out Mechanisms for Rights Holders in AI**

Joshua Richards outlined significant challenges with opt-out mechanisms for rights holders, particularly in the context of AI. He noted that the current system, as evidenced by the EU experience, lacks transparency and clarity, leading to legal uncertainties. Additionally, he pointed out that many rights holders are unaware of their opt-out options, making it difficult for them to effectively protect their works.

**Discussion on Copyright and AI Impact on Artists**

Joshua Richards discussed a Microsoft Word privacy update that uploads content to Copilot, recommending users opt out. Rima Salehi from DAX presented findings on artists' earnings, noting that many earn significantly less than the median wage and depend on online visibility. She stressed the importance of a robust copyright framework and a safe online environment for artists to maintain control over their work.

**Discussion on AI and Copyright Concerns in the Creative Industries**

Joshua Richards discussed the importance of allowing artists to contribute to the creative economy without undue burdens. Barbara Hayes shared insights from a survey of over 13,500 authors, revealing that a significant majority believe they should be asked for permission and compensated for the use of their works in AI. The discussion also criticized the proposed opt-out system, arguing it would not provide authors with the necessary control and transparency.

\* The importance of transparency in AI data usage and its implications for copyright.

\* The challenges and flaws of the proposed opt-out mechanism for copyright.

**NMA Amendments and Advocacy Strategy**

Joshua Richards highlighted the active role of the NMA and the presence of all four signatories to the amendments. He stressed the necessity of winning the amendments for the benefit of creative industries and outlined a to-do list for organizations, which includes writing to Lords and encouraging members to engage with their MPs.

**Addressing the Challenges of AI in the Creative Industry**

Joshua highlighted the urgent need for the creative industry to advocate for its interests in the face of AI advancements. He noted that the recent meeting with the intellectual property office revealed a significant disconnect between policymakers and the creative sector's concerns. Joshua called for a unified approach among creatives to engage with MPs and ensure their voices are heard.

**Discussion on AI, Copyright, and Creative Industries**

Joshua Richards discussed the challenges faced by smaller creatives due to AI and copyright concerns, advocating for a broader approach that includes competition issues. He mentioned an upcoming Labour debate on February 6th and stressed the importance of articulating the values of the creative industries, particularly in relation to low-wage earners.

**Action Items:**

\* Dan Guthrie will draft a letter from the chairs of the all-party groups discussing both the positives and concerns of the consultation.

\* Joshua Richards will circulate a blog highlighting the privacy update in Microsoft Word that allows users to opt out of AI training.

\* Participants will submit detailed and thoughtful responses to the consultation before the deadline.

\* Participants will encourage their members to write to their MPs regarding the importance of the amendments proposed by Baroness Kidron.

**Key Questions:**

\* How can transparency be effectively implemented in AI usage of creative works?

\* How can the creative industries ensure their voices are heard in the consultation process?

\* What are the implications of the proposed copyright changes for the creative industries?