

The e-citizen in the Cyberspace – A journalism aspect

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Today's internet user can be characterized as e-citizen - that is a person that resides in Cyberspace. In the Cyberspace, which is the electronic medium of computer networks, in which online communication takes place (The American Heritage Science Dictionary, 2005), the e-citizens interact, exchange ideas, share information, provide social support, conduct business, direct actions, create artistic media, play games, engage in political discussion with various information, services, etc. But the information available in the cyberspace is not properly organized and of course there are other problems that concern various illegal activities (that constitute the electronic or cyber crime).

Social media are perhaps the most popular services of cyberspace today. Facebook, that is considered to be the best representative of social media, claims to have over 1 billion users. The main characteristic of social media is that they offer to every e-citizen the ability to add content in the cyberspace, and thus contribute to participatory journalism. Participatory journalism can be defined as the concept of members of the public playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing and disseminating news and information (Bowman and Willis, 2003).

Through social media every e-citizen can publish / disseminate content that he has created / reproduced or discovered. In this context many concerns arise, and more precisely copyright issues, but also open access rights. This paper attempts to give an overview of the previous mentioned issues, and proposes methods that can be employed in order to alleviate any side-effects that the rapid adoption of social media has created.

References

Bowman, S. and Willis, C. (2003) "We Media: How Audiences are Shaping the Future of News and Information."The Media Center at the American Press Institute. Available at http://www.hypergene.net/wemedia/download/we_media.pdf.

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