

# Legal Issues of Aggregating and Curating Information Flows: The case of RSS protocol

Dimitra Karydi<sup>a,c</sup>, Ioannis Karydis<sup>b,d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Attorney at Law, Corfu, Greece*

<sup>b</sup>*Dept. of Informatics, Ionian University, Greece*

<sup>c</sup>*dimitra.karydi@gmail.com*

<sup>d</sup>*karydis@ionio.gr*

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## Abstract

The ease of content distribution through the web in addition to the ubiquitous mobile devices that not only consume but also create such content, have allowed for an ever increasing availability of information flow. The resulting information volume has, paradoxically, lead to distracting and negatively impacting productivity and decision-making. To compensate, content curation has emerged as a prominent process engulfing a range of activities and procedures done to create, manage, maintain, validate and inform interested parties of relative to their needs content. In the context of this research the notion of an information flow has a definite beginning, no foreseeable end, variable flow rate and a transient character as to its data. The transient character refers to the availability of content from the source within a source defined time span at any given time of content request. Accordingly, the paradigm of the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) protocol for information flows is considered through the work. Nevertheless, a litany of legal issues arise during the curation key processes of collection, storage, inference extraction and redistribution of information flows. As these issues present an increased complexity to software engineers, one of the main contributions of this research is to present an easy to grasp description of the associated to information flow curation legal issues as a starting point of further research, bridging thus the two disciplines.

*Keywords:* Information flow, RSS, Legal issues, Copyright law, Transient data

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