

FILM DISTRIBUTION OVER THE INTERNET : SOCIOCULTURAL, ECONOMICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL STAKES

New information and communication technologies bring us into an unprecedented era whose main characteristic is instant transportation of intangible data. The existing operational modes of society and economy are thus overthrown. With the arrival of the Internet, the filmic medium dematerializes as movies become traded through the net. It seems essential for the film and video game industry to fully control and conduct this new distribution vector. Despite progress in this field, legitimate digital distribution is restrained to traditional methods, only using the Internet for online stores. An analysis of the social, cultural, economical and legal ramifications in the Internet age will allow us to reflect on new solutions to distribution. As well, the operation of dematerialized distribution must be investigated in order to find innovative solutions adapted to the demand while conciliating technological development and compensating fairly rightful owners. So, it would be interesting to consider the lessons of the music industry since it was first affected by the digital revolution. Last but not least, it is important to examine the European film sector which, faced with complications from the American industry and an extremely fast and complex technical evolution, has to adapt its regulation and support policy to frame and foster films distribution over the Internet.

This media and new technologies study takes part in the information and communication sciences discipline under the direction of Mr. Francis Balle, member of the French Press Institute Administration Council and head of the Study and Research Institute on Communication (IREC). In the University Paris 2, specialized in law, economy and social sciences, this interdisciplinary research's aim is to bring concrete answers to the questions the economical and political actors are asking themselves concerning the future of the audiovisual content distribution via the Internet.