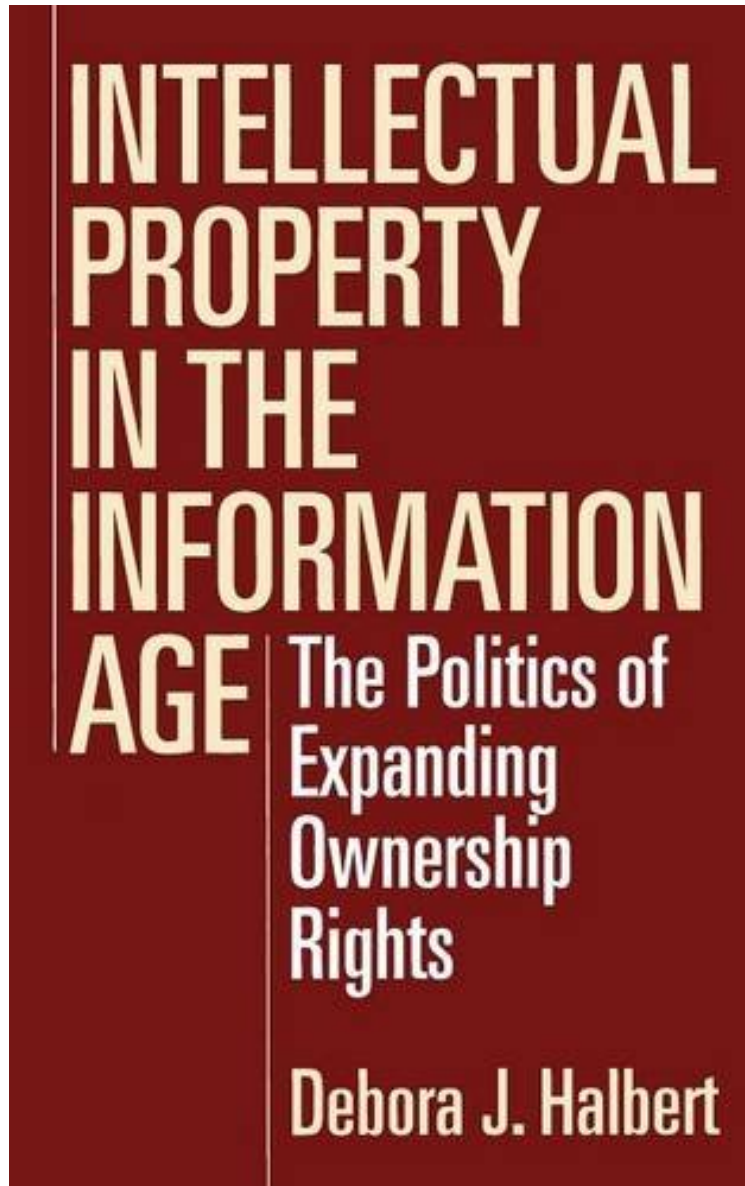


Intellectual Property in the Information Age: The Politics of Expanding Ownership Rights

Debora J. Halbert

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the Information Age: The Politics of Expanding Ownership Rights:

Intellectual property is rapidly becoming one of the most controversial aspects of American law with both domestic and international implications. The controversy over copyright law is largely a result of the rapidly growing internet which threatens clear copyright ownership. In fact, Halbert argues, the internet, through its emphasis on information exchange, inherently challenges the concept of intellectual property rights developed in the 18th century to protect written not word-processed works. Halbert critiques the theoretical foundations and the present American approach to copyright law, and she concludes that we should not uncritically extend copyright law to the internet. More generally, we should keep the concept of intellectual property from colonizing knowledge and ideas. She attempts to describe how new technologies are brought within the boundaries of the intellectual property discourse and given legal legitimacy. Halbert touches on the historical roots of copyright law, the manner in which copyright law is used today, and provides a critique of our current attitudes toward intellectual property. Court cases, government documents, public policy recommendations, international trade agreements, the actions of key industries, and popular opinion provide insight into how intellectual property as a concept is being defined in the information age and used to enforce property boundaries. An important resource for scholars and professionals alike working in copyright related industries.

... "a welcome attempt to mount a radical challenge to the aggressive assertions of copyright protection that have greeted the rise of digital technologies.... This is a good book to read for getting a new perspective on the problem..." - Administrative Science Quarterly? ... a welcome attempt to mount a radical challenge to the aggressive assertions of copyright protection that have greeted the rise of digital technologies.... This is a good book to read for getting a new perspective on the problem...? - Administrative Science Quarterly? Debora J. Halbert's *Intellectual Property in the Information Age* is a no-nonsense critique of intellectual property... [w]hile scholarly in form and style, is quite readable and is not burdened with heavy theory.... Halbert's book is far more accessible, combining critical insight with a strong commitment.? - Prometheus... "a welcome attempt to mount a radical challenge to the aggressive assertions of copyright protection that have greeted the rise of digital technologies.... This is a good book to read for getting a new perspective on the problem..." - Administrative Science Quarterly "Debora J. Halbert's *Intellectual Property in the Information Age* is a no-nonsense critique of intellectual property... [w]hile scholarly in form and style, is quite readable and is not burdened with heavy theory.... Halbert's book is far more accessible, combining critical insight with a strong commitment." - Prometheus About the Author DEBORA J. HALBERT is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Otterbein College. She has specialized in intellectual property issues, and her articles on the topic have appeared in *International Journal of the Semiotics of Law*, *The Information Society*, and *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*.