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It has been said that the author is the center of copyright laws and the laws are there to protect the author alone. However, economics and international politics play a great role in copyright laws. The number of industries that would be impacted if copyright laws did not exist would cause massive economic turmoil in not only the United States but also the world. Copyright laws are necessary for the economics of the United States to remain in a good place and this makes economics the center of copyright law.

There are multiple industries that would be negatively impacted if there were no copyright law. First, the paper industry would face a decline in sales due to people electronically sharing the book. It is easy to scan a book and upload it to the Internet to then share with others. Even if people made copies of the book there would be no mass production and sales would fall. Next, the ink industry would suffer with the ink used to print the books. There is a rise in the operational costs so to lose business with the book industry would undoubtedly result in mass job loss (Savastano, “NAPIM Convention Examines State of Ink, Printing Industries”). There is a separate ink industry used for eBooks that might not see as much of a decline if people shared eBook to eBook. Although, the demand of eBooks would decline and the e ink is more expensive to make so that industry could die off relatively soon (“Ink Technology”). The book binding companies would see a great decline in the number of books being published, other than text books, and like the other impacted industries, would have to lay off workers. All of the costs and industries associated with bookmaking would suffer and the United States would see great economic turmoil (“The Economic Impact of Copyright: A Presentation to TPP Negotiators | Public Knowledge”).

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is part of the United Nations “to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world” (“Convention Establishing The World Intellectual Property Organization”). Under treaties and pacts made, varying forms of medium are protected when used in another nation. Copyright laws vary depending on location so with these treaties the owner is still receiving the credit for the artwork and they are seeing the proper funds. The United States and other countries profit off of the benefit to sell these goods internationally. It was found that 17% of the gross domestic product for the United States comes from these sales (Landes et al. “An Economic Analysis of Copyright Law”). Without these treaties the nation would lose a great deal of its profit. Due in part to the WIPO treaties, millions of jobs in the United States are saved each year. Approximately 1/8 of people work for a fair use industry, which, in turn, accounts for $1.2 trillion in salaries annually thanks in part to these treaties (Landes et al. “An Economic Analysis of Copyright Law”). The ability to have a stable growth in the amount made in salaries also shows that the industry is creating and providing jobs to the public. With the new fad of electronic books, this created job opportunities in developing a new type of ink and making the eBook reading devices.

Over the past five years the use of eBooks has spiked and the industry has seen a steady stream of profit. By the end of the third quarter of 2010 the wholesale revenue in the United States of eBooks was $304.6 million (“Industry Statistics”). The spike and gradual increase since then has resulted in numerous job hires at major companies such as Amazon. As previously mentioned, the e ink industry is also seeing an increase in profits. In 2011 the e ink industry saw $6.53 billion in profits worldwide and $220.85 million of that profit came from the United States (Hoffelder, “E-ink Reports Net Profits Up 59% in 2011”). The steady stream of profits is possible because of copyright laws protecting the authors and publishing industry as a whole.

Aside from the government and other industries suffering, the authors would also see little to no profit. Sharing the material found in the book either by making copies or Internet sharing, the public would not be buying the author’s work. The amount it cost the author to produce the book would result in any money the author made to be paid back to the printing industries. Being an author would have little to no benefit and there would be a drastic decline in the number of books being published. It would be a tragic loss because so many people enjoy reading for leisure but there would be no benefit for the author to keep publishing works.

Without copyright laws protecting works of art, multiple industries would go bankrupt. There have been jobs created and protected thanks to an evolving publishing industry protected by the laws and policies. Without some form of protection, book writing would become a rare art form. Copyright laws are there to protect the author and maintain economic stability in the world.

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