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Editorial: Apps, AI, and Law

Welcome to the third and final Issue of 2020 of the European Journal of Law and Technology. As the title of this editorial suggests, this issue contains papers on the broad themes of apps, and the implications of the use of artificial intelligence in online news media. As has now become a standard practice, we have also included a book review.

In our first article titled 'Intellectual Property and the Protection of Apps in the European Union', Helen Gubby, Jos Klaus, and Kees van Noortwijk provide a good analytical account of the protections that intellectual property (IP) rights can offer applications (apps) for mobile platforms. By analysing the various components of mobile apps, i.e. the source code, Graphical User Interface, movements and transitions, and logos, icons and fonts used in the apps, the authors provide valuable insights on which form of IP would be most suitable in terms of protection for app developers.

Natali Helberger, Max van Drunen, Sarah Eskens, Mariella Bastian and Judith Moeller focus on another topical issue in their article, 'A freedom of expression perspective on AI in the media – with a special focus on editorial decision making on social media platforms and in the news media'. The authors examine the issues stemming from the use of artificial intelligence tools in the news media, which they undertake predominantly from the lens of the right to freedom of expression. Whilst acknowledging that 'the introduction of AI-driven tools can create new opportunities for users to exercise their freedom of expression rights, the application of automated filtering and sorting can also result in new digital inequalities and unequal opportunities of access to information'. The article offers a timely and pleasing contribution to scholarship in this area.

Returning to the theme of apps, Pauline McBride offers an insightful commentary based on her experience of building a legal expert app in 'Building a Personal Data App'. McBride points out that her experience building the app demonstrated the need for a 'different kind of engagement with legal rules', which she very helpfully shares by reflecting on the intersection of legal practice and legal theory revealed in the process. The author offers insights about the possible role that machine learning might play in the design of legal expertise automation apps. McBride also touches on the educational value of building a legal expert app. '

In this Issue's book review section, Daniel Davenport provides a review of the book, *The Making Available Right: Realising the Potential of Copyright's Dissemination Function in the Digital A*ge (Edward Elgar: 2019). Thanks are due to our book review editor Dr James Griffin for his help with this section as well as his valuable support with the general technical editing of this Issue.

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us due to the ongoing global pandemic. In spite of the obvious pressures it has placed on our authors, editors, and reviewers, the journal continues to be busy as ever. In particular, the editors and reviewers have been most generous with their support for the journal, regardless of the additional demands on their professional and personal time due to the current situation. As a true open access journal committed to the free dissemination of high quality legal scholarship, the journal heavily relies on the goodwill of our colleagues and well-wishers for its smooth running and success. I would like thank BILETA, and all our reviewers, members of the editorial board, and last but by no means least all our authors and readers for their continued support of the EJLT.

Abhilash Nair
Editor-in-Chief