



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Search engine freedom: on the implications of the right to freedom of expression for the legal governance of Web search engines

van Hoboken, J.V.J.

Publication date
2012

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

van Hoboken, J. V. J. (2012). *Search engine freedom: on the implications of the right to freedom of expression for the legal governance of Web search engines*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements

The completion of this thesis would not have been possible without the support of many that have been important for my research, my academic development and my personal life. First, I want to acknowledge the intellectual support and patience of my supervisors Prof. Nico van Eijk and Dr. Natali Helberger. I could not have wished for better and am deeply thankful both for the directions they provided as well as the space they left me to develop my own voice. A special thanks goes out to Prof. Egbert Dommering for his involvement in this project and my commission, and his past work and continuing intellectual support for the Institute for Information Law.

The IViR is a truly wonderful place to conduct research. I feel much indebted to my colleagues for their contributions to the intellectual and social climate there: Anja Dobbelsesteen, Prof. Bernt Hugenholtz, Dr. Tarlach McGonagle, Prof. Jan Kabel, Dr. Stef van Gompel, mr. Gerard Mom, Rosanne van der Waal, Fabienne Dohmen, Pieter Claeys, Christina Angelopoulos, Dr. Mireille van Eechhoud, Christiaan Alberdingk Thijm, Dr. Lucie Guibault, and my former colleagues Dr. Wolfgang Sakulin, Dr. Ashwin van Rooijen, Dr. Melanie Dulong de Rosnay, and Hans Fischer. I also want to thank those that brought new energy: Bart van der Sloom, Frederik Borgesius, Ana Ramalho, Esther Janssen, Catherine Jassarand and Axel Arnbak. At the University of Amsterdam, my thanks goes out to the following people for their support and interest in my work: Iris van Domselaar, Prof. Richard Rogers, Erik Borra, Prof. Maarten de Rijke, Prof. Giuseppe Dari-Mattiacci, Dr. Arnout Nieuwenhuis, Dr. Janne Nijman and my dean Prof. Edgar du Perron.

While I would not exchange the IViR for anything else, there is no place I know like Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society. I am very grateful to Yochai Benkler for supporting my stay there in the fall of 2008 and want to thank Urs Gasser, Colin Maclay, Jonathan Zittrain, Eszter Hargittai, Rebecca Tabasky, Amar Ashar, Wendy Seltzer, Ethan Zuckermann, Phil Malone, Lokman Tsui, and Chris Soghoian for their welcome, help, advice, critiques, and thoughts that contributed to my stay at the Berkman Center and my research there and after.

Since I expected a PhD project to be a rather lonely affair, I feel obliged for having encountered so many wonderful people over the last 5 years. I want to specially mention and thank for their time, friendship, interest and invitations to present my work: Eben Moglen, Ian Brown, James Grimmelman, Frank Pasquale, Niva Elkin-Koren, Eric Goldman, Tal Zarsky, Dag Elgesem, Miguel Peguera, Biella Coleman, Benjamin Mako Hill, Eddan Katz, Bogdan Manolea, Meryem Marzouki, Rikke Frank Joergensen, Bodo Balasz, Michael Zimmer, Ben Peters, Maria Gomez Rodriguez, Theo Röhle, Malte Ziewitz, Seda Gürses, Gon Zifroni, Konrad Becker and Felix Stalder. To Peter Robinett I express my appreciation for his patient and witty comments on my use of the English language in this thesis.

The move to IViR in 2006 came together with a loss. Bits of Freedom stopped its activities, to which I had had the chance to contribute with Maurice Wessling, Sjoera Nas, Karin Spaink and Frank Kuitenbrouwer. I could not have imagined that when finishing my thesis Bits of Freedom would be stronger than ever. Doke Pelleboer has been instrumental in this and I have learned a lot from working with him. My admiration goes out to the tireless commitment of Ot van Daalen and the Bits of Freedom team to make the best possible out of the new chances we got. I am happy to be a part of it.

My final words here are in gratitude and love for my friends, the band, my family, and Adriana. Your support for my pursuits as well as your patience has lasted throughout this project.

Joris van Hoboken

Amsterdam, February 2012