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Copyrights and Innovation
Proposal

There is much debate about the use of copyright and patent laws to protect inventors and incentivize research and development. According to advocates, copyright laws corrects market's negative externalities imposed on the inventors when they are not rewarded fairly, simply because of the speed that ideas spread in the digital world. Abolitionists argue that copyright laws hinder research with unnecessary bureaucratic procedures, and inventors are usually rewarded accordingly, with monetary rewards not the sole goal.

This paper aims to analyze the correlation between the strictness of copyright laws and the rate of innovation. The initial hypothesis is that patterning has little to negative effect on the rate of invention in a country.

Methodology

Longitudinal and cross-sectional data are collected from World Bank, Global Innovative Index, World Economic Forum, etc. Global Innovative Index rates countries based of 97 indicators, which will be selected according to how relevant they are to this study. The rate of innovation will further be defined as a function of GDP growth, percentage of capital and human investment in research in total GDP, ease of business, growth rate of new books published, etc. Copyrights restriction will be defined by the length of copyrights and patent, the number of court cases, percentage of cases won and patterns granted, history of copyright laws, etc. Furthermore, if there is enough data, structural topic models will be used to establish similarities in themes and tones regarding copyright laws among more innovative countries. Lobbying for copyright laws in the US and other similar countries will also be studied.

An initial study of Global Competitive Index and the length of Copyrights Laws gives :

