

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910799927403321
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Titolo	Human rights and the digital divide / / Anne Peacock
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Abingdon, Oxon ; ; New York, NY : , : Routledge, , 2019
ISBN	1-351-04679-9 1-351-04677-2 1-351-04678-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 248 pages)
Collana	Routledge research in human rights law
Classificazione	12.32.12 32.20.24
Disciplina	341.4833
Soggetti	Right to Internet access Internet freedom of expression information human rights case study
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Series Page; Title Page; Copyright Page; Dedication; Table of contents; Acknowledgements; Table of cases; Abbreviations; 1 General introduction; 1.1 Scope of the book; 1.2 Methodological approach; 1.3 Definitional challenges; 1.4 Key themes of the book; 1.5 Structure of the book; 2 The historical context of international debates on a right to access to information technology and digital divide guarantees; 2.1 Phase I: the early years of the UN; 2.2 Phase II: New World Information and Communication Order and the MacBride Report 2.3 Phase III: the 2003 and 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)2.4 Phase IV: the Internet Governance Forum and the WSIS implementation process; 2.5 Conclusion: the need to assess the digital divide phenomenon through a human rights legal framework; 3 Negative obligations; 3.1 Brief introduction to freedom of expression: Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR); 3.2 Yildirim v. Turkey; 3.3 Inter-American system: similarities and

differences; 3.4 Conclusions: denial of access to the Internet and prevention of collateral censorship on the Internet

4 Positive obligations to facilitate access to the Internet

4.1 Definition, scope, and how to determine whether there is a positive obligation; 4.2 Positive obligations to protect against third-party interference; 4.3 Positive obligations to safeguard pluralism; 4.4 Positive obligations to provide access to information; 4.5 Implications on potential positive obligations to facilitate universal access to the Internet; 4.6 Opportunities and challenges for a freedom of expression framework to address the digital divide

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6.3 The Digital Community Centres' improving digital literacy, increasing access to activities and services

6.4 Challenges or barriers preventing the effective implementation of the digital inclusion programme; 6.5 Conclusion: toward mutually reinforcing lines of research to support bridging the digital divide; 7 Conclusions; 7.1 Access to the infrastructure and access to content; 7.2 Difficulties in categorizing speech online; 7.3 Mapping international legal standards; 7.4 Linking human rights protection to the digital divide: setting an inter-disciplinary agenda to bridge the digital divide

Sommario/riassunto

The Internet's importance for freedom of expression and other rights comes in part from the ability it bestows on users to create and share information, rather than just receive it. Within the context of existing freedom of expression guarantees, this book critically evaluates the goal of bridging the 'digital divide' - the gap between those who have access to the Internet and those who do not. Central to this analysis is the examination of two questions: first, is there a right to access the Internet, and if so, what does that right look like and how far does it extend? Second, if there is a right to access the Internet, is there a legal obligation on States to overcome the digital divide? Through examination of this debate's history, analysis of case law in the European Court of Human Rights and Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and a case study of one digital inclusion programme in Jalisco, Mexico, this book concludes that there is indeed currently a legal right to Internet access, but one that it is very limited in scope. The 2012 Joint Declaration on Freedom of Expression and the Internet is aspirational in nature, rather than a representative summary of current protections afforded by the international human rights legal framework. This book establishes a critical foundation from which some of these aspirations could be advanced in the future. The digital divide is not just a human rights challenge nor will it be overcome through human rights law alone. Nevertheless, human rights law could and should do more than it has thus far.