

2C—Copyright, User Rights, and the Role of the Librarian

Peer-to-Peer File Sharing as User's Rights Activism, Michael Gunn (Western University).

With the imposition of digital rights management restrictions on the distribution of media, the internet cannot promote intellectual freedom. Peer-to-peer file sharing technology helps expose the work of artists and authors to a much wider audience than previously possible. This provides an opportunity for more sales and a greater number of successful artists and authors. Yet corporate copyright owners continue to propagate the “piracy” label to discredit the idea of open access channels. This paper argues that as information professionals, librarians are in a position to promote policy change that revolutionizes the political economy of digital goods.