Rise of the Aggregators: International News Sites on the Web

The last column, which dealt with sites designed for political junkies to feast on political news leading up to the 2016 elections, has gotten me motivated to add some more Web link aggregator pages to the Web-Wise Lawyer site. Since the last column included links to some foreign news sites covering the upcoming election, I got the notion to look at English-language versions of foreign news sources. The push to internationalize the global economy has, for better or worse, been very successful, and I have always preferred to go straight to the source of things rather than go through the filter of an intermediary. Hence, I believe there is much to be gained by going straight to the foreign news sources rather than rely on domestic news intermediaries who have limited space to devote to the international news market and have to pick and choose their coverage of foreign events.

A Word about Aggregation Sites

Is linking to other sites legal? There has been considerable discussion about this topic. An informative article from 2010 is “What’s the law around aggregating news online? A Harvard Law report on the risks and the best practices,” by Kimberley Isbell at http://www.niemanlab.org/2010/09/whats-the-law-around-aggregating-news-online-a-harvard-law-report-on-the-risks-and-the-best-practices/. A more recent commentary is “Connecting to Other Websites” by attorney Rich Stim, an editor at Nolo Press (www.nolo.com), found at http://fair-use.stanford.edu/overview/website-permissions/linking/. I cannot see anything wrong with linking to public sites; in fact, it provides free publicity to those sites. What can be problematic is “borrowing” content, with or without attribution. My goal is to inform you about sites relating to specialized topics (i.e. election 2016, international news), not to