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Abstract/Description:

This innovative book celebrates the tri-centenary of modern copyright, which began with the enactment of the Statute of Anne by the British Parliament in 1709, and was soon followed by other copyright legislation abroad. The Statute of Anne is traditionally claimed to be the world's first copyright statute, and is thus viewed as the origin of a system of national laws that today exists in virtually all countries of the world. However, this book illustrates that while there is some truth in this claim, it is also important to treat it with caution.

Written by leading experts from across the globe, this comprehensive (historical) analysis breaks new ground on modern copyright issues such as digital libraries, illegal downloading and distribution, international exhaustion and 'new formalities'. The expert contributors consider what lessons can be learnt from the achievements made during the last 300 years, and whether they can be used to overcome the new challenges facing copyright.

This in-depth scientific analysis of the legacy of the Statute of Anne 300 years on from its origins will provide copyright practitioners, academics, policy makers and postgraduate students with a unique and fascinating read.

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Copyright provides a framework for relationships between the different players in the content industries, as well as for relationships between rightsholders and the consumers of content. Copyright is a form of Intellectual Property, along with trademarks and patents in all countries, and other creations (such as trade secrets, sui generis database rights, rights of publicity and the like) that may vary from country to country. When Copyright Protection Begins. Copyright (or author's right) is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works. Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculpture, and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps, and technical drawings. What can be protected using copyright? Copyright protection extends only to expressions, and not to ideas, procedures, methods of operation or mathematical concepts as such. How Do I Register a Copyright? Is My Copyright Good in Other Countries? What is a Copyright? Where Can I Ask a Copyright Question? Patents. How Do I Check to See if a Patent Already Exists? There is no such thing as an 'international copyright' that will automatically protect a work throughout the world. Protection against unauthorized use in a particular country depends on the national laws of that country. The Global Copyright Office is based in the United Kingdom and deals exclusively with music-based copyrights including lyrical works. Some countries have no provision for registering copyrights and can offer no alternative other than the futile exercise of 'poor man's copyright'. If a dispute of copyright ownership or an infringement should occur the ability to provide absolute proof of ownership acceptable in a court of law is essential, unfortunately