

Consequences of Iran's Accession to International Copyright Treaties: A Systematic Review

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Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to evaluate the implications of Iran's participation in international copyright agreements.

Methodology: The research adopts a qualitative approach and employs a meta-synthesis based on the Sandelowski and Barroso model. The research population consisted of 4,937 documents, including articles, research proposals, and theses in both Persian and non-Persian languages related to the subject. After a screening process based on duplication of titles, availability of full texts, relevance of titles, and alignment with the research topic, 51 sources were selected as the final sample.

Findings: Analysis of the selected texts identified 36 concepts categorized into 10 categories related to economic consequences; 81 concepts grouped into 19 categories associated with cultural consequences; 16 concepts organized into 5 categories concerning political consequences; and 14 concepts classified into 2 categories related to legal consequences.

Conclusion: From an economic perspective, accession may create export opportunities and facilitate Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization, which requires compliance with the TRIPS Agreement and the provisions of the Berne Convention (Articles 1-21). Culturally, accession could enhance access to international works and strengthen cultural identity. From a legal standpoint, it would support domestic creators, while politically, it could improve Iran's international standing. However, accession may also restrict access to new resources, increase costs, and introduce implementation challenges. Overall, accession offers significant opportunities but depends on national preparedness and effective management of potential challenges.

Value: Meta-analytic research plays a crucial role in knowledge production and theory development. This study provides a systematic review and structured analysis of the consequences of Iran's accession to international copyright treaties, an area that has received limited attention in previous research.

Keywords: *Copyright, Berne Convention, World Trade Organization, TRIPS Agreement, Consequences of Accession to International Treaties*

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Extended Abstract

Introduction: Over the years, numerous international treaties have been established to protect authors' rights. However, Iran has not yet acceded to many of these agreements, a situation that has attracted considerable attention from legal scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders in the creative industries. Several key factors highlight the necessity of Iran's accession to these treaties. First, membership in international copyright agreements is a prerequisite for joining the World Trade Organization, which is essential for Iran's integration into the global economy. Second, given Iran's rich cultural and artistic production, participation in international copyright systems is crucial for achieving global recognition and gaining access to international markets. Third, the rapid advancement of technology has increased the domestic need for effective protection of software and access to databases. Although accession to these treaties may pose challenges—such as harmonizing legal standards and reforming national legislation—it also presents significant opportunities, including economic growth, international cooperation in publishing, and the strengthening of Iran's cultural identity on a global scale. Accordingly, this study examines the economic, cultural, political, and legal implications of Iran's accession to international copyright treaties and addresses existing gaps in the research literature.



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Purpose: In the contemporary globalized landscape, countries are increasingly dependent on international legal frameworks to protect their intellectual property rights. Iran's potential accession to international copyright agreements—particularly the Berne Convention—represents a pivotal and strategic decision with far-reaching economic, cultural, political, and legal implications. This article aims to provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of these consequences. The study examines both the advantages and disadvantages of Iran's participation in these treaties, with a focus on identifying and analyzing the opportunities and challenges that arise within this context.

Methodology: This study adopts a qualitative methodology with an applied orientation, utilizing a meta-synthesis approach to systematically review and integrate existing research. This method, recognized as a form of qualitative research synthesis, follows the seven-step framework proposed by Sandelowski and Barroso (2006). During the data collection phase, 4,937 documents were retrieved from national and international databases using relevant keywords. Subsequently, the application of scientific and thematic criteria in the screening process reduced the corpus to 51 selected studies. Data analysis was conducted through open coding, with key themes organized into main categories by integrating similar concepts. To ensure data reliability, inter-coder agreement was employed, yielding a reliability coefficient of 82%. Finally, the findings were organized within a conceptual framework to provide a comprehensive understanding of the implications of Iran's accession to international copyright treaties.

Findings: After defining the research question, a systematic review of the relevant studies was conducted, leading to the selection of appropriate research sources. The selected materials were reviewed multiple times by the researcher, and through this process, 557 codes were extracted from the documents. In the subsequent phase, these codes were categorized based on conceptual similarity, resulting in the identification of the main concepts and categories of the study.

According to the findings, a total of 147 concepts and 36 categories were identified. The following tables present the economic, cultural, political, and legal consequences of accession, along with their respective categories, separately.

Table1. Economic Consequences of Accession

Consequences of Accession	Categories
Positive Economic Consequences	Enhancement of International Trade Exchanges
	Strengthening the Economy of Culture and Arts
	Strengthening Investment in the Culture and Arts Sector
	Facilitation of Preparations for Joining the World Trade Organization
	Reduction of Cultural and Scientific Rent-Seeking and Monopolies
Negative Economic Consequences	Increase in Economic Pressure
	Rise in the Prices of Creative Works
	Higher Production Costs for Creative Works
	Economic Harm to Creative Industries
	Economic Dependency on Free International Works



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Table2. Cultural Consequences of Accession

Consequences of Accession	Categories
Positive Cultural Consequences	Job Creation in the Culture and Arts Sector
	Improvement of International Cultural Interactions
	Enhancement of Access to and Consumption of Cultural and Artistic Products
	Strengthening Cultural Security
	Empowering the Creation of Creative Works
	Boosting the Culture and Arts Industries
	Strengthening and Organizing the Translation Sector
	Development of Culture and Arts
	Development of Culture and Arts Technologies
	Professionalization of the Publishing Industry
	Entry into Global Markets
	Protection of National Heritage and Assets
	Access to Advanced Technical Infrastructure and Up-to-Date Knowledge
	Reduction of Plagiarized Publications and Promotion of High-Quality Works
Negative Cultural Consequences	Decline in the Quality of Domestic Productions Due to Reduced Access to International Works
	Strengthening Western Cultural Dominance
	Decrease in Translated Works



	Limited Access to Foreign Works
	Restricted Access to New Technologies

Table3. Political Consequences of Accession

Consequences of Accession	Categories
Positive Political Consequences	Improvement of Political Relations at the International Level
	Enhancement of National and International Credibility
	Protection of National and Public Interests
Negative Political Consequences	Obligation for the Country to Support Foreign Works
	Negative Impact on the Censorship of Works

Table4. Legal Consequences of Accession

Consequences of Accession	Categories
Positive Legal Consequences	Strengthening Legal Mechanisms
	International Support for the Rights of Creators

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate that Iran's participation in international copyright agreements entails a multifaceted set of implications across economic, cultural, political, and legal spheres. Although certain adverse effects—such as increased production costs, limited access to international content, and legal challenges—have been identified, the overall findings suggest that the benefits are more substantial. These benefits include the strengthening of intellectual property frameworks, enhanced integration into global cultural and artistic markets, and an improvement in international standing. To fully realize these advantages, accession should be pursued gradually and through strategic planning, encompassing institutional readiness, the harmonization of national laws with international standards, and the establishment of supportive mechanisms for domestic creators. Provided that these prerequisites are met, accession could play a significant role in the sustainable development of Iran's cultural economy and in enhancing the country's position within the international intellectual property landscape.

Value: This research employs a meta-analytical framework to evaluate the effects of Iran's involvement in international copyright treaties. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the subject, addressing a gap in the existing literature. The findings offer significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders in the field of intellectual property.

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