

THE PROBLEM WITH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:
SUBJECT MATTER EXPANSION

a vacuum. Therefore, expansion of the subject matter protected under either patent, copyright, or trademark law should only occur if it does not undermine the careful balances struck under each of the other bodies of intellectual property law. This can prevent unintended over-protection of intellectual property which protects the rights of creators and innovators at the expense of the public. Finally, investing a single federal entity or agency with power to oversee all intellectual property, in lieu of the current fragmented approach, might facilitate a more coordinated development of the various bodies of intellectual property law.