

Access to Knowledge in Brazil:

New Research on Intellectual Property,
Innovation and Development

Edited by **LEA SHAVER**

'This is essential reading for anyone who cares about one of the most important human rights issues of the century: access to knowledge.' - *Madhavi Sunder, Professor of Law, University of California Davis, USA*

THE EDITOR | Lea Shaver is an Associate Research Scholar and Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School, USA.

THE BOOK | This volume features essays on issues of intellectual property, innovation and development policy that significantly impact access to knowledge in Brazil. Each chapter is authored by legal scholars affiliated to the Fundação Getulio Vargas law schools in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.



CONTENTS | Foreword | Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development: The Access to Knowledge Approach | From Free Software To Free Culture: The Emergence Of Open Business | Exceptions And Limitations To Copyright In Brazil: A Call For Reform | Biotechnology In Brazil: Promoting Open Innovation | Access To Medicines: Pharmaceutical Patents And The Right To Health

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'Brazil's award-winning program to combat AIDS-HIV is confronting new global patent laws that drive up the price of medicines, frustrating the government's ability to meet its constitutional commitment to the right to health. At the same time, the cost of textbooks in Brazil is 270% higher than in Japan and 150% higher than in the United States, partly on account of strict copyright laws. In Brazil as around the world, "intellectual property" is increasingly becoming a household word, as more and more ordinary citizens become aware how patents and copyrights profoundly affect our lives.

In this illuminating book, Brazilians tell their own stories of their recent skirmishes with stringent international patent and copyright standards. Their essays evidence a nascent social movement for access to knowledge in Latin America and beyond. This is essential reading for anyone who cares about one of the most important human rights issues of the century: access to knowledge itself.'

Madhavi Sunder

Professor of Law, University of California Davis

'As policymakers around the world grapple with how to configure their intellectual property policies to promote innovation and economic growth, as well as public access to the fruits of intellectual labor, they would do themselves a huge favor by reading Lea Shaver's excellent book, "Access to Knowledge in Brazil." It offers a rich set of case studies and lessons learned from Brazil's efforts to achieve these balanced policies. But all concerned citizens should learn a great deal from reading this highly accessible and sophisticated volume which explains how intellectual property rules touch on the lives of ordinary people, gives examples of open innovation projects that have been successful, and shows how international treaty obligations can be implemented well by learning lessons from when they were implemented less well.'

Pam Samuelson

Professor, University of California Berkeley, School of Information & School of Law

'Access to knowledge is critical for the construction of a democratic and equitable society. In order to ensure such an access, well designed national legislation and policies need to be adopted. This book discusses the methodologies and instruments that Brazil has implemented to achieve that objective. It provides information essential for policy makers, academics and civil society. This book is a new and important contribution supported by the Information Society Project at Yale Law School, which has pioneered work in this field.'

Carlos M. Correa

Professor, University of Buenos Aires

Author, *Intellectual Property Rights, the WTO and Developing Countries*