Scanner tags, comic book piracy and participatory culture

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Abstract

To learn more about the motivations of individuals who scan and distribute comic books, this study reports findings from a content analysis of 389 scanner tags extracted from comic books posted on the torrent network Pirate Bay. Coded according to four categories linked to the literature on comic fandom and participatory culture, tags were analyzed in terms of recognition, aesthetic style, textual signifiers, and visual signifiers. Though comic book pirates seek recognition from their peers, they are primarily concerned with focusing attention on their favorite fandoms. This study challenges the view that digital piracy should necessarily be interpreted as a form of cultural resistance. The phenomenon of comic book scanning makes more sense when understood as a manifestation of fan behavior. Comic book pirates are more fans than revolutionaries.

Author Biography

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HTML

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Introduction MANUEL CASTELLS 1 University of Southern California GUSTAVO CARD.  What are “Piracy Cultures”? Usually, we look at media consumption starting from a media industry definition. We look at TV, radio, newspapers, games, Internet, and media content in general, all departing from the idea that the access to such content is made available through the payment of a license fee or subscription, or simply because its either paid or available for free (being supported by advertisements or under a "freemium" business model). The participatory cultures handbook. A Delwiche, JJ Henderson. Routledge, 2012. 196. 2012. Agenda-setting, opinion leadership, and the world of Web logs. A Delwiche. First Monday, 2005. Scanner tags, comic book piracy and participatory culture. A Delwiche. First Monday, 2014.