PUBLIC ACCESS DATA IN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

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In industries like an aerospace engineering a large amount of researches is funded by the corporations, which grant special access to the specific documentation and data to affiliated scientists and may provide internship to affiliated universities students. Such model of cooperation allows for specific and usually quite narrowly-scoped researches to be conducted since different corporations involved in research and development could establish their unique engineering traditions and approaches.

The downside of above-mentioned model is that it might complicate the researches that require general statistical design and/or performance data from the wide range of products (such as aircrafts or helicopters), thus complicating predictions of trends in the field, which could be detrimental to conceptual advancement of aerospace engineering as a whole, as well as to providing the cutting-edge industry awareness to students, teachers and researchers alike.

A side problem that could be raised and further investigated concerns independent and/or unaffiliated with any given corporation researchers and students, who may wish to conduct their research in the given industry, but may lack access to specific product or number of products data and/or technical documentation, which in many cases are confidential information.

Such confidential information, which could also be the trade secret of the given corporation, is an unavoidable and widely-encountered concept in the

aerospace industry for numerous reasons, such as, for instance, economical (business rivalry), national security (military products manufacturing), etc.

On the other hand, the information that is in public access is usually general, lacking in many details, and provided for a product as a whole (such as technical characteristics of a given aircraft model), while information on a particular subsystem, even general, might be absent in open access for unspecified reasons. But sometimes it is possible to find more in-depth technical documentation such as Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) provided by the developer to be in public access, or provided by the third parties, which could be a controversial case, addressed below.

The situation described above leads to a state of informational gaps, possibly detrimental to certain types of researches and studying activities, and thus it is necessary to address the possibilities of filling those gaps with information from controversial sources, which might be more abundant in the open access.

The concern towards information source trustworthiness is raised since Internet might be abundant with thematic blogs, forums and other information gathering and sharing platforms, that may provide information from different sources with different levels of credibility, and with different guarantees towards this credibility. A further research of the formal scientific approaches towards the analysis and credibility rating of such sources is required.

Another concern is raised towards the legality of possible redistribution and storage in public access of the official information, such as technical documentation and/or data provided by the manufacturer of the product, by the third parties. The prospects of the possible usage of such information, which might have unclear legal status, in the research, which requires citations, is worthy of further investigation.

The above-mentioned concerns deserve being addressed because facilitation of the wide-scope and/or independent researches as well as raising of the cutting-edge aerospace industry awareness could benefit the scientists, students, teachers, and the field as a whole.