

**INTERNET CENSORSHIP LAW: A  
COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN  
MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE**

By

Azarith Sofia Bte Aziz (2011403462)  
Fairuz Naziha Bt Mohamad (2011404552)  
Nor Nazifah Bt Ahmad Nordin (2011408492)

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

**Universiti Teknologi MARA**  
**Faculty of Law**

December 2013

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and the appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The completion of this research is made possible with contributions from many people. We would like to extend our gratitude to all who has been staunchly supporting our journey in writing this paper.

First of all, we (Fairuz Naziha Bt Mohamad 2011404552, Azarith Sofia Bt Aziz 2011403462 and Nor Nazifah Bt Ahmad Nordin 2011408492) would like to express our gratitude to our advisor Associate Professor Siti Hajar Mohd Yasin for all the guidance bestowed to us in finishing this honors paper, as part of the requirement of completing our Bachelor of Legal Study.

Big thanks to our families who gives financial and motivational support during this research. We also feel grateful towards our friends and colleagues who are also doing their projects and together we give each other motivation to complete our work. To each of the members of the group who gives full cooperation onto completing research paper, it's an honor to be working with you. Last but not least, many thanks to Faculty of Law for giving us the chances to do this research for it will add value in our academic career.

Thank you.

## ABSTRACT

There is a growing concern that Internet access is being restricted by governments through various legislation. Government engaged in Internet censorship, among others to protect public morality, suppress subversive material or eliminate threats to national security. Different countries have a different law and policies with regards to Internet governance. This research attempts to conduct a comparative study of Internet censorship law between Malaysia and Singapore.

This paper examines the legal framework of Internet censorship currently applied in Malaysia. The government of Malaysia has repeatedly emphasized that Internet would not be subjected to censorship and this is provided for under the Communication and Multimedia Act 1998. However, this stance has since changed with the amendment to Evidence Act 1949. Internet is being regulated in Malaysia by using the conventional media censorship laws such as the Defamation Act, Film Censorship Act and Sedition Act.

The research studies the application of Internet censorship in Malaysia. Internet is being censored by government mainly to preserve harmony in the multiracial society and to protect national security. However, there is lack of clear direction in the Malaysian law regarding Internet censorship which leads to confusions among the public.

For the purpose of comparison this research is looking into the Internet censorship legal framework of Singapore. In Singapore, like other media, Internet is under the jurisdiction of Media Development Authority (MDA). Singapore also applies the Sedition Act in implementing Internet censorship. Almost similar to Malaysia, Singapore aims in regulating Internet is to protect and safeguard public interests. However, the application of Internet censorship is quite different from Malaysia as in Singapore, there was no pledge that Internet will not be censored.

## CONTENTS

Acknowledgement.....	ii
Abstract.....	iii
Table of Content.....	iv
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 BACKGROUND OF STUDY.....	2
1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	4
1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES.....	5
1.5 CONCEPTUAL FEATURES.....	5
1.5.1 Internet.....	5
1.5.2 Censorship.....	6
1.5.3 Internet protection.....	6
1.5.4 Internet security.....	6
1.5.5 Netizen.....	7
1.5.6 ISP.....	7
1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	7
1.7 SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH.....	8
1.9 DELIMITATION.....	9
1.10 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH.....	9
1.11 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	10
1.12 CONCLUSION.....	14
<b>CHAPTER 2: THE GENERAL PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNET AND CENSORSHIP</b>	
2.1 INTRODUCTION.....	15
2.2 HISTORY OF INTERNET DEVELOPMENT.....	16
2.3 HISTORY OF CENSORSHIP	
2.3.1 Global.....	19

2.3.2	Malaysia.....	20
2.3.3	Singapore.....	26
2.4	JUSTIFICATION IN CENSORING THE INTERNET.....	29
2.4.1	Social Norms and Moral.....	31
2.4.2	Political and Social Power.....	33
2.4.3	National Security.....	35
2.5	METHODS IMPLEMENTED TO CENSOR INTERNET.....	36
2.5.1	Technical blocking.....	36
2.5.2	Search result removal.....	37
2.5.3	Web content take-down.....	37
2.5.4	Self-censorship.....	37
2.5.5	Points of filtering.....	37
2.6	CONCLUSION.....	38
<b>CHAPTER 3: INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN MALAYSIA</b>		
3.1	INTRODUCTION.....	39
3.2	GENERAL CENSORSHIP LAW.....	39
3.2.1	Films censorship.....	40
3.2.2	Books and printed material censorship.....	40
3.2.3	Music.....	42
3.2.4	Television.....	42
3.3	THE LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK OF INTERNET CENSORSHIP.....	43
3.4	SCOPE AND ENFORCEMENT OF INTERNET CENSORSHIP.....	49
3.5	CONCLUSION.....	52
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN SINGAPORE</b>		
4.1	INTRODUCTION.....	53
4.2	GENERAL CENSORSHIP IN SINGAPORE.....	53
4.2.1	Films.....	54
4.2.2	Books.....	55
4.2.3	Music.....	56