Far-Right Extremism and Digital Book Publishing

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This report examines digital publishing, sale and distribution of books which have contributed significantly to the dissemination and mainstreaming of far-right extremist (FRE) material in the 21st century. Commercial book publication, sales, distribution and sharing platforms play a significant role in enabling the circulation of FRE material, as this report details through analysis of Amazon, Google Play, Rakuten Kobo, Goodreads, and Scribd and its e-book-platform, Everand.



The report notes that recommendation algorithms are particularly problematic because they have the capacity to direct users who have not yet encountered extremist material towards FRE books and to actively reinforce extremist perspectives.

The report also recommends the use of available techniques (such as machine learning) to scrutinise the nature of self-published materials, with the aim of preventing reproductions of materials that are refused classification from being published spuriously under misleading titles or pseudonyms.

While technology companies have already taken steps to remove some of the most notorious FRE books from sale, distribution and discussion, the report recommends that the companies surveyed extend this practice to other FRE materials using available techniques to understand and interrupt the formation of a network of recommendations which leads individuals towards publications advocating political violence.