The decision to show which intellectual property should be preferred would be based on what studies and research has to conclude on which method is overall the most efficient and beneficial to use.

The idea of patents being the more efficient and beneficial method for intellectual based on the idea that one does not simply take someone else’s work without facing the consequences of their actions. This leaves the right owner of the intellectual property the assurance that his or her work is well protected and back up by the court of law should the property be unfairly used.

The major weakness regarding copyrighted material is the fact that it is not as aggressively enforced. To date there are sites such as torrent hosting sites that allows downloads of game and application software’s or even popular sites such as YouTube that streamed music, movies and TV shows that arguably are costing the owners of these intellectual property a loss of potential income or perhaps damaging their brand reputation. All this happening while either these site owners rarely to never taking any action to take the content in question off their websites for good or the lack of action taken by the court of law to ensure that others do not dare to attempt these reckless actions.

While patents and copyright content are both useful methods to protect one’s intellectual property, our research suggests that patents is more efficient and beneficial compared to copyrighted material in regards to bringing forth the law and justice to the when the material has been used and taken advantage of against the owners right. In the end, however, patents cannot cover everything that copyrighted materials do as they both work and operate differently from each other. The possible solution is to somehow rewrite or change the way copyright laws are done to make it as efficient and reliable as the patent system. As for open source material, it seems to be a valid option for those wanting to gain reputation in the industry and have their content to gain recognition to the public.
Although one should resort to this method should they believe their work no longer be considered a financial advantage or intended to bring more completion to the market.

Source