



Third Party Privacy

Case Studies

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UNC
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



An Ethical Approach to Web Presentation of Digitized Manuscripts

- Can we treat sensitive materials the same in the web environment as we do in the search room?
- Does the web change what we consider to be *sensitive*?
- Are some material types more sensitive than others?
- Is some content more sensitive than others?
- Should it matter who the third party is?
- Should we not digitize contemporary collections?

Case Study I. Health Information

- Delta Health Center Records
- 1968
- Small African-American community in Mississippi Delta
- Family case studies
- Identifying information
- Rich narrative information

Case Study II. Health Information

1. Is it unethical to digitize this collection and present these documents on the Web?
2. Should this collection drop back in the queue for a "cooling off" period? What constitutes a responsible lapse of time?
3. Is it ethical to redact only names and street addresses?
4. Are we placing our donors at legal risk for violations of HIPPA?

Case Study II. Personnel Information

- Southerners for Economic Justice Records
- 1990s
- Personnel information interspersed throughout collection
- Impossible to segregate

Case Study II. Personnel Information

1. Is it unethical to digitize this collection and present these documents on the Web?
2. Should this collection drop back in the queue for a "cooling off" period? What constitutes a responsible lapse of time?

Case Study III. Personal Information and Explicit Details

- Joseph A. Herzenberg Papers
- Diaries
- 1950s through 2006
- Friends' and acquaintances sexual relationships and drug use

Case Study III. Personal Information and Intimate Details

1. Is it unethical to digitize this collection and present these documents on the Web?
2. What measures, if any, should be taken to protect the privacy of third parties in diaries?

Case Study III. Personal Information and Intimate Details

1. Do we consider explicit sexual content objectionable for digitization? If so, does the objection lie only with contemporary collections?
2. Are we running any legal risks in disseminating material that may reasonably be considered pornographic?

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