

May 31st, 12:00 AM

Moral dilemmas (means): Librarians and information professionals facing new technologies

Monika Halasz-Cysarz
University of Warsaw

Monika Halasz-Cysarz, "Moral dilemmas (means): Librarians and information professionals facing new technologies." *Proceedings of the IATUL Conferences*. Paper 22.
<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iatul/2011/papers/22>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries.
Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.



Monika Halasz-Cysarz, MA
 Institute of Information Science and Book Studies
 Warsaw University
 Nowy Świat Street 69
 00-927 Warsaw
 POLAND
 mhczyszcz@uw.edu.pl

1. What is moral dilemma?

Moral dilemma is a complex situation that will often involve an apparent mental conflict between moral imperatives, in which to obey one would result in transgressing another.



I new technologies cause new dilemmas

II moral dilemmas (should) touch everybody in information work

III rarity of examinations concerning the ethical awareness



2. Ethical versus law dilemma

Legal issue – being threatened by legal sanctions that are anticipated in the operation of the justice system if we contrary to what is constituted by the letter of law.

Ethical issue – being not threatened by any legal sanctions when act contrary to these standards. The possible are only a moral self-hangover or the disapproval of an environment.

3. Methods used for the study

A questionnaire in the interview form among graduates/students of LIS studies:



The librarians
The offices and banks employees
The news business/ information brokering professionals

4. Results

The LIBRARIANS' Moral Dilemmas

1. Being less proficient in computer use (helping less successfully)
2. Barriers to access to new technology among users (especially electronic materials)
3. The protection of personal data (user data, sharing information)
4. The protection of intellectual property (photocopying, the copyright protection of materials available online)
5. Facebook, Skype, instant messengers, blogs and other things



An OFFICE/BANK EMPLOYEE'S Moral Dilemmas

1. Reliable information
2. The boundaries of fair use



THE INFORMATION BROKERS' Moral Dilemmas

1. Reporting data
2. Obtaining and sharing information



5. Conclusions



I Some individuals are more ethically sensitive, others less.

II Librarians and information professionals claim that they need to know more about data protection. It seems that having this knowledge, they would have less moral dilemmas.

III Permanent education

IV Examinations seems not to confirm that in the age of the new technologies librarians and information professionals in Poland have more moral dilemmas (really don't they?!)

V The author claims that they have, but probably they don't know how to identify them.

VI Their ethical awareness is not formed as well as the autor could expect.

6. Tasks

I It is necessary to more often raise the issues of profession morality on a broad public.

II It is necessary to examine the ethical awareness and consciousness of information professionals and librarians.

III It is necessary to create a list of moral dilemmas which they experience or can experience.

IV There should be a permanent education also in the axiological and ethical range.

