

WHAT WE WORRY ABOUT WHEN WE WORRY ABOUT PRIVACY

Helen Cullyer

Associate Program Officer, Scholarly Communications
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OUR FEARS



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graph TD; Root[OUR FEARS] --- L1[ ]; L1 --- L2[ ]; L1 --- L3[ ]; L1 --- L4[ ]; L2 --- L2L[Loss of academic freedom]; L3 --- L3L[Government surveillance]; L4 --- L4R[Identify theft and other crimes]; L4 --- L4R2[Discrimination];
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Loss of academic
freedom

Government
surveillance

Identify theft and
other crimes

Discrimination

The consequences of our ignorance

PRIVACY IS LIKE COPYRIGHT...

What worked well in the print and analog age
does not work well in the era of the internet

TYPES OF PERSONAL DATA COLLECTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◆ Official student, HR and departmental records
- ◆ Internal research initiatives to track student and faculty trajectories
- ◆ Library records and user data
- ◆ Consumer and user data collected by university presses
- ◆ **Data hosted on university networks: email, network logs, card swipes**
- ◆ **Third-party services: particularly Google Apps for Education**
- ◆ **Born-digital records in institutional archives**

**MIT and Harvard are currently reviewing their
privacy policies**

PUBLIC / PRIVATE DISTINCTION

Public institutions are subject to FOIA requests, while private institutions are not.

But both public and private institutions need privacy policies for digital data. Those policies differ in important respects.

THIRD-PARTY SERVICES



Family Educational
Rights and Privacy
Act (FERPA)?



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN: MEMAIL PROJECT



INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

- ◆ Distinguish legal from ethical questions
- ◆ Develop consistent privacy policies within and across units of institutions
 - ◆ Makes those policies as transparent as possible particularly with regard to third party services
 - ◆ Those policies must be implemented properly. That may require interface between and integration of institutional and third-party systems
- ◆ Network security is essential
- ◆ Educate students, faculty, and staff so that they can become stewards of their own online privacy

QUESTIONS FOR FUNDERS

- ◆ What sorts of questions should we ask about privacy policies in the context of grants to support libraries, archives, and scholarly publishing? (i.e. the realm of the Scholarly Communications program at AWMF)
- ◆ What about funding agencies that support IT infrastructure and administrative systems development and implementation?
- ◆ Should funders take a stance on privacy issues?

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