

Author: Victor Rosenberg, 2010

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Issues in Information Policy

SI 550/768

Victor Rosenberg

2010



Course Requirements

- Project Proposal Due Jan. 20
- Oral Presentation of Issues and Ideas
- Written Paper Due on Last Day of Class
- Attendance Required for Participation Grade
- (Optional) Draft of paper due March 10



Privacy Issues

- Data gathering on the Internet
- Privacy regulation, European solutions, etc.
- Access to personal or academic records
 - Medical Records Privacy
 - Criminal Records Privacy
- Using personal data for marketing
- Buying and selling personal data
- The Patriot Act
 - Library Issues
- Government access to Internet data
- Data Security



Government restriction on scientific publication

- Defense implications of academic research
 - Limiting access by hostile countries
 - Intelligence is often gathering the openly available literature or expertise.
 - Corporate espionage
- The secure encryption controversy
- Industry restriction on the publication of proprietary material.



Intellectual Property Ownership

- Government policy regarding patents of contractors and grantees
- An exploration of the effect of the Bayh-Dole act.
- Faculty entrepreneurs and conflict of interest.
- University policies on patents, copyright and technology transfer.
- Access and piracy on the Internet
 - Effect on print and media industries



Censorship and Online Content

- National sovereignty and control of the Internet
- Objectionable content and public trust
 - “Pro Ana” sites
 - Sexting
- “Hate” and similar sites
- Control of online gambling



Telecom Issues

- Bandwidth allocation
- Regulation of cable industry
- Cellular telephone standards
- International telecom development
- Cable availability
- Regulation of telephone rates



Library Issues

- Freedom to read
- Rights to information
- Professional vs. consumer information
 - Medical information online
- Reliability and accuracy of online information
- Access to patron records



International Issues

- National Information Policies
- Cultural Imperialism
 - Canada, France, etc.
- Data Flow Across Borders
- Political Power of Information
- Equitable Access to Media



Business Issues

- Software anti-trust issues (Microsoft Case)
- Consumer protection in e-commerce, Digital Fraud, and Identity Theft
- Taxation of E-commerce
- Consumer “fraud” in banking, telecom, cable TV, and other consumer industries
- Small and Medium Sized Companies



Real Issues

- Wolverine Access Monitoring
- C-tools access to student data
- Parking data
- Video Surveillance Information
- Security Locks
- E-mail Retention



Questions???

