

# Methods of (Ethics) Online Research Ethics of (Methods of) Online Research

Bossey Course, University of Geneva, 24 March 2010 Prof. Dr. Christoph Stückelberger Executive Director Globethics.net, Geneva



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#### 1.1 Brainstorming: random

- Random search with search machines, websites, along keywords, names, countries, encyclopedias etc.;
- maximum of openness, not brain restrictions, creative;
- especially in initial phase of research.



#### 1.2 Conceptual: systematic

- Read key encyclopedia and other articles/books, bibliographies on the topic;
- Develop first, second, third table of content of research work;
- Ask teachers, other students, participants in globethics.net for orientation;
- Select key resources on internet/ in library.



#### 1.3 Laizy: more of the same

- The laizy research "tourist" remains at the beach, the curious research "adventurer" enters the jungle to detect more;
- Google: fine, but there are other search machines; compare results;
- Wikipedia: fine, but there are other encyclopedias.



#### 1.4 Critical: dialectic

- Critical analysis of information by resource background, search for other opinions;
- Look at the values of and behind a resource and its sender;
- Differentiate between information and opinion;
- Use experts views, but also common sense!



#### 1.5 Spiritual: centered praying

- praying means: orient your research to God;
- Praying for the Holy Spirit (ruach): she helps to center and orient research towards values and goals;
- The goal of research is worshiping God, serving human and non-human life (all human activities Soli Deo Gloria SDG, Calvin).



# 2. Ethics of (Methods of) Online Research

#### 2.1 Fair quotation: no plagiarism

- Sharing knowledge yes! Plagiarism no!
- Plagiarism can kill your career (examples!);
- Plagiarism seems easy in internet. But is easy to detect by your teacher with plagiarism software;
- Fair quotation: quote also (grey) sources from your context. Chance of internet for contextual theology.



## 2. Ethics of (Methods of) Online Research

#### 2.2 Fair rules: copyright regimes

- Respect copyright rules indicated in each publication;
- For your own (future) publication: put them under Creative Commons Copyright CC: the author grants the right to copy, distribute and transmit the work under three conditions: attribution, non commercial, no change of text. http://www.globethics.net/web/guest/copyright



# 2. Ethics of (Methods of) Online Research

#### 2.3 Fair payment? Three document types

- 1 Academic: scientific, free access to resources;
- 2 Commercial: sc.+ others, for profit, quality;
- 3 Institutional: sc. + others, free access, institutional interest
- Existing unfair terms of trade of knowledge sources
- Illegal copying of knowledge can ethically be legitimate ("social bookshop") under very restrictive conditions: not for profit, if no other way, if available means are not otherwise used/vasted.



## 3. Research Partnership: Give and Take

- "Globethics.net Principles of Research Partnership"
- Give and Take as principle of Globethics.net library users/submitters
- Only if it is a win win situation, intern research for free, internet sharing and social networks will survive.
- "Sharing of resources" is a profound ecumenical principle of research partnership.



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danke
thank you asante sana
merci gracias
terima kasi
grazie
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