

A **Frame** of Mind

The Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics + Contemporary Moral Problems Review

Camille Ann Domingo



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Foreword

A Frame of Mind is a very fresh view on computer and information ethics. It is a picture of how the Generation-Y understands the pressing issues on hacking, intellectual property and online privacy among others. In this era that we call the "Information Age", these are important matters that we need to address- to the extent that in recent, controversial legislations have been drafted to address the need to protect ourselves from the menaces on the internet.

At this day and age, where Facebook and Google is a household brand and where information can be accessed at the click of a finger, these issues and perspectives are relevant to each and every one of us who live and breathe technology. This work helps us better understand the importance of information technology and ethics- that it must come hand in hand to propel us to the future and help humanity reach its fullest capacity. And so, I applaud the efforts of Camille Ann Domingo and welcome the publication of "A Frame of Mind". Thank you for helping propel us to the future with works such as these.

Lady Diane B. Domingo

*For my mama and papa,
Who taught me the true essence of morality and introduced me a world of love and hope.
Thank you, I love you.*

*For my sisters – Lady, Dione, and Celine,
Who always believed in me and supported me in everything that I do.
Thank you, I love you.*

*For my saviour and best friend – Jesus Christ,
Who showered me with bountiful blessings and loved me unconditionally.
Thank you, I love you.*

“It is very risky. But each time a child opens a book, he pushes open the gate that separates him from Elsewhere.” — Lois Lowry

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Part I - The Handbook of Information Ethics and Computer Ethics

Chapter 1 – Foundation of Information Ethics

Author: Luciano Floridi

Quote: “Any form of life is deemed to enjoy some essential proprieties or moral interests that deserve and demand to be respected, at least minimally and relatively, that is, in a possibly overridable sense, when contrasted to other interests.”

What I expected to learn:

- To know the meaning of information ethics and its significance to the society.

Review:

Information Ethics and infosphere were new words in my vocabulary until now. I never knew that such terms and ideas existed and those very ideas not only affect the Information Technology but everyone. Our world is growing continuously and thus we need this information ethics to address and solve ethical related problems that is rising within our infosphere. As I am reading this chapter, the methodologies and processes used to determine such information ethics is what interests me. A model called RPT model is even formulated to explain how technology modifies “life of information” and is inevitable to moral repercussions for anyone who has moral responsibilities. Basically, this is how the model works: student gets information to generate ideas for her studies and will eventually affect his/ her infosphere.

With our increase learning and advancements in technology, our processes also evolved and science continues to innovate. Because of our growth with technology, the infosphere has also grown. Our perspectives are widened and reached horizons. We have more moral responsibilities, roles, and functions that we need to perform. We need to contribute effectively to the society and for the growth of information since everything that we do would greatly affect the “life of information”. Our perspectives are widened and reached horizons. With the society that we currently have right now it is no doubt that it will still progress and improve in the future.

What I learned:

- The basis of information ethics and where it was originated
- The different frameworks and arguments used to understand Information Ethics
- The evolution of technology and its methods in transforming the society and creating new ways of treating information

Integrative Questions:

1. What is infosphere?
2. What is a RPT model?
3. How does “infosphere” relate to Information Ethics?
4. How do we contribute to the infosphere?

Chapter 2 – Milestones in the History of Information and Computer Ethics

Author: Terrell Ward Bynum

Quote: “To live well, according to Wiener, human beings must be free to engage in creative and flexible actions that maximize their full potential as intelligent, decision-making beings in charge of their own lives. This is the purpose of a human life.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be acquainted with the history of information and computer ethics and its breakthrough in the community.

Review:

It was quite a shock to find out that the field of information ethics was born by accident – a beautiful accident however. It is inspirational how people in the past are very innovative and believed in their research and predictions especially Norbert Wiener. What Wiener created was indeed serendipity which created great potentials and offered numerous of opportunities. Because of his advanced thinking, he had created a new field which is information and computer ethics. With this, he also wrote about cybernetics to present his views on human nature and the society. He explained that humans have great potential for learning and creativity and the purpose of human life is to prosper and flourish which is highly expected from each and every one.

Humans are capable to digest information as well as to transmit it to one another because of its intellectual capabilities and sense of living. In order to maximize one’s full potential, according to Wiener, we should engage activities that encourage our creative flow, thinking sessions, and physical drive like sports. Every person has a unique identity that is different from one another – their achievements and excellence depends to what type of talents and skills they have. Our society could have a different variety of potentials that needs to be flourished in order for everyone to grow. Wiener wrote “Great Principles of Justice” – principles which he believed to develop the human’s full capabilities. He said that our society should be built by these guiding principles that he devised.

In addition, this chapter also talked about computer ethics and the social and ethical problems connected to it such as globalization, computer and religion, virtual communities, computers and unemployment, artificial intelligence, human robots, and this list could go on forever. These challenges rose with the fear that computer might take over our lives which is why computer ethics was born in order to respond to these problems. Yes, technology made a great impact into our lives. Technology is even present anywhere. When you ride a train in Singapore, you will notice that everyone is focused on their phones, tablets, and gadgets busy doing whatever. Kids are busy playing video games than socializing with other kids. Cyber-bullying is rampant to teens nowadays.

Despite the problems that technology contributed, you cannot take away the fact that it also helped humans grow and enhance and develop their skills. Bank transactions are easier through the wide use of kiosks and self-service technologies. Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) have improved their social and communication skills because of the new technology platform that helps them in their day-to-day therapies. Education is easier, accessible, and free because of the open source that internet has given to the world. Communication is within reach because of social networking and social media. You cannot honestly say that technology did not contribute to the good life that you are experiencing right now. Each has its pros and cons – we are not living a perfect world. However, all the things that misused and overused can always lead to bad consequences. The field of computer and informational ethics is there to be able guide and lead us in keeping this world safe and remind us in practicing our morals over the internet.

What I learned:

- We should not stop learning – in order to move forward, we need to think ahead and think outside the box. The field of information ethics would not be here if the people in the past stopped learning and discovering things.
- Ethics is very important not only in information technology but in our everyday lives. One must practice it everywhere they will go. If you do so, you are a respectable person and a good exemplar to others.

Integrative Questions:

1. How did information ethics transform our society?
2. What is cybernetics?
3. What is Wiener's "Great Principles of Justice"?
4. What is computer ethics?
5. Do we need information and computer ethics? Why?

Chapter 3 – Moral Methodology and Information Technology

Author: Jeroen Van Den Hoven

Quote: “Traditional moral philosophy is full of science fiction and adventure, full of lifeboats and runaway trains, brains in vats, android robots, pleasure machines, brain surgery, and pills that will make one irrational on the spot.”

What I expected to learn:

- To learn about how ethics is applied in information technology.
- To learn about the different methodologies used to support morality and ethics in the field of Information Technology (IT)

Review:

Information Technology has changed our experiences and our lives and has transformed our way of thinking. I could still remember the first time I created an email. I was ten years old back then I kind of lied about my age because I was three years short. I did not understand back then the terms of conditions and policies in the internet. I was ten, our computer was new, and internet was very new to me. Ever since I got an email, it opened a new experience for me. At the age of eleven, social networking was introduced to me – hello MySpace and Friendster! I also created a blog at Xanga and Diaryland because I love writing so much and I would want to express it online. When I joined the blogging community, I got new friends from Finland, Vietnam, and US. Believe it or not, we are still friends until now. Because of blogging and tweaking the internet, I discovered the beauty of HTML. I was coding HTML and designing my blog during my free time. I was having the time of my life on the internet. Because DSL and Broadband was not offered for home usage back then (remember Dial-Up connection?), I had to buy internet cards to be able to use the internet. I could still remember how my mom would get angry for spending too much time in the internet and too much money for internet. At the age of twelve, I was exposed to Mobile Surfing through the use of WAP. I was too happy because I could use the internet when I am travelling. And my internet fairy tale could go on forever. I guess it was part of the reason why I decided to take up Information Systems as my major in college. My point – technology created a big impact on my life and has affected my decisions, interests, hobbies, and perspectives. Because of life changing experiences with technology, we have to include it in our moral thinking. We have to think about the applied ethical issues that are concerning computers and information technology. As a result, moral methodology is formed to deal with concerns linking to information technology and ethics.

The moral methodology or moral approach to information technology is basically centred to these – using technology for the benefit of the humankind and the environment that surrounds us, and for the protection of humankind, living beings, environment, and all the other matters that we consider

important. Different methodologies are used to support ethics in information technology such as generalism, applied ethics, particularism, reflective equilibrium, and value sensitive design. All have contributed to back up ethics in using computers and information technology. They are all different types of methodologies but it captured the feature of dynamic moral thinking about the challenges that are present in our current society. Moreover, the author emphasized that we should be open-minded and accepts different ideas and methodologies in approaching answers. We should not just accept one system and agree to it right away without even considering other factors and weighing its pros and cons. Our exposure of internet must have taught us to accept different perspectives which are the reason why different moral methodologies are there. These methodologies helped me to further understand the importance of ethics in computer. Truly, there must be integration of information technology and ethics to be able to create a well-functioning infosphere.

This chapter helped me to understand ethics in information technology. I learned that even I make mistakes and somehow did something unethical in the internet. The information over the internet is shaped by the people who are continuously using it. Therefore, all of us must be ethical users of the internet and must be responsible to what we share and post in the web.

What I learned:

- I have learned the different moral methodologies that back up the practice of ethics in Information Technology.
- Traditional moral philosophy is not passé however we must be open to view other philosophies.
- Technology transformed our lives. The world we are currently living right now is influenced by technology and our lives will never be the same without it. I have learned that we must use technology to better ourselves and the society since we are the ones who are shaping technology. We must continuously use it for goodness and not for harming others and the society.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is Information Technology ethics?
2. How do we apply ethics in our everyday lives?
3. What is the effect of computers in our lives?
4. Do you think one moral methodology is enough to address morality in information technology?

Chapter 4 – Value Sensitive Design and Information Systems

Author: Batya Friedman, Peter H. Kahn Jr., and Alan Borning

Quote: “In the real world, of course, human values (especially those with ethical import) may collide with economic objectives, power, and other factors. However, even in such situations, Value Sensitive Design should be able to make positive contributions, by showing alternate designs that better support enduring human values.”

What I expected to learn:

- I hope to learn the significance of information systems and the concept of value sensitive design.

Review:

I first encountered value sensitive design on the previous chapter as a moral methodology in exploring information technology and ethics. Value sensitive design, according to the authors, is a theoretically grounded approach to the design of technology that accounts for human values in a principled and comprehensive manner throughout the design process. The concept was explained into three studies to be able to grasp the full meaning of value sensitive design. At first when I read the title of the chapter, I thought that this was about user interface and user experience and its importance which is odd. However, the concept is far from what I think it is. Value sensitive design is actually about greater and deeper things such as treasuring life and connecting it in system design which is just another part of computer and informational ethics.

As an information system student, it is expected of us to develop software and design systems. While reading this chapter, I have learned that value sensitive design is to be able to design information and create systems that support lasting human values. Wiener talked about how technology would develop the skills and enhance the capabilities of human beings on Chapter 2 and I believe this is what Value Sensitive Design is all about. Technology has that ability to release the true potential of humans and it is up to us to use it for our own good. We should not let computer get to us and praise our gadgets too much to the point that it is dictating our lives. Since human beings are responsible for the progress of technology, we should all of it to our advantage. It would be meaningless if we cannot use technology to its fullest and develop applications for the improvement of our lives.

Yet, we have to ask ourselves – what is truly our own concept of value? Values differ in every person. One person may give importance to one thing and reject another. What we throw away may be valuable to another person. I have my own set of values and principles and I stick to it. These principles that I hold is what influenced me in living my everyday life. Even if we have different set of values and priorities, we could still use it in controlling what we can do with technology. All I am saying is whatever values you have, we have this responsibility as a part of a technological world to give meaning to the applications we create.

What I learned:

- It is part of my job as an Information Systems student to create systems and develop software with values. I learned that I should be able to promote technology as something that is good. The next time I create and design software or an application, I must be able to think about how it would help human life and improve the society. What is the use of technology and my knowledge in developing programs anyway if I am not able to use it for the greater good? If I am successful in doing so, then I am definitely successful in my field.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is value?
2. What is value sensitive design?
3. How can we apply value sensitive design in information systems?
4. Do you think value sensitive design is important? Why? Why not?
5. What are the challenges faced by value sensitive design?

Chapter 5 – Personality-Based, Rule-Utilitarian, and Lockean Justifications of Intellectual Property

Author: Adam D. Moore

Quote: “Nobody could think himself injured by the drinking of another man, though he took a good draught, who had a whole river of the same water left him to quench his thirst . . .”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to learn the true concept of intellectual property
- To be able to learn the concept of personality-based justification of intellectual property
- To be able to acquire knowledge in rule-utilitarian in connection to intellectual property
- To be able to know the approach in lockean justifications of intellectual property
- To be able to learn more about copyrights and patents

Review:

Everyone knows about intellectual property but not everyone understands it. Intellectual property is an intangible property and is a product of mental process and its value is based upon an idea or a collection of ideas. A person is entitled to intellectual property rights to protect original works or authorship such as a musical composition, a film, a book, a painting, or a computer program. Copyrights and patents are used to protect original works from being reproduced, adapted, derived other works from it, distributed, and displayed publicly without the permission of the author. This book will be subject to copyright later therefore you cannot copy and reproduce this even if you like it. However, the issuance of copyright and patent is not for free. A payment is required to have your work or intellectual property protected. I will be paying for it too, so do not worry.

From the definition of intellectual property to the usage of copyrights and patents, certain arguments are compared in order to justify intellectual property rights. This insinuates questions that are argumentative in nature like “How will I know if someone violated my intellectual property right?” Three justifications are presented in order to fully understand intellectual property rights and its elements. These are personality-based, rule-utilitarian, and lockean justifications. While I am reading the different types of justifications and personally comparing them, I had a flashback when I realized that I already knew these concepts. I could vividly remember one of the lectures of my professor in my ITETHIC class. He said “No one is poor because someone stole their idea. Imagine a person who is living in the streets tells you that he got poor because someone stole his idea.” I laughed when he said that but he actually made sense. In fact, what my professor illustrated is the very justification of Locke about intellectual property. Locke argued that if no one is exacerbated by an acquisition, then there is a little room for rational complaint especially when it is regards to someone stealing your idea and accuse them of violating intellectual property. Another great example would be cooking your

favourite Pasta Vongole and while you are pan frying the clams with the garlic and the herbs, your neighbour from another condominium unit smells the aroma of your cooking while eating bread. Your neighbour does not have any food except for bread and decided to smell your cooking to be able to imagine that he is actually eating clams. You cannot say that you were hurt or victimized because someone smells the aroma of your food and start fantasizing about it. Given Locke's premise of his justification you can say that I definitely felt exacerbated and worsened that someone is stealing the aroma of the food that I made. We are now confused because of the broad meaning of exacerbation and worsened. However, the author defended this by saying that intellectual property right is impossible to apply when the nature of the property is hard to protect. You cannot definitely contest this when it is impossible in the first place. Understanding intellectual property rights is hard and kind of confusing but the justifications really helped me in figuring out its real concept. The example of my professor is the very example of this justification. No one became poor because someone stole their idea – that is just preposterous.

What I learned:

- I learned that intellectual property must be respected and protected. I am glad that we have legal rights to protect original works and promote novelty.
- I have learned the different justifications of intellectual property rights and how each strategy defended intellectual property rights. I also learned that you cannot claim something that is not yours in the first place.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is the concept of intellectual property?
2. What are intellectual property rights?
3. Among the three strategies presented, what is the best justification of intellectual property rights? Why?
4. Why do we need intellectual property rights?
5. How do we protect intellectual property

Chapter 6 – Informational Privacy: Concepts, Theories, and Controversies

Author: Herman T. Tavani

Quote: “We demand recognition of our right to privacy, we complain when privacy is invaded, yet we encounter difficulties immediately [when] we seek to explain what we mean by privacy, what is the area, the content of privacy, what is outside that area, what constitutes a loss of privacy, a loss to which we have consented, a justified loss, an unjustified loss.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to grasp the true essence of informational privacy.

Review:

Privacy is an essential element of our lives. We always demand for privacy. Oftentimes, we get very angry when our privacy is violated. As our world is evolving and technology became a part of our everyday lives, it is quite hard to keep a private life when almost everyone is posting everything on the internet.

However, the clear definition of privacy seems unclear to me. We demand for privacy, but is it actually our right to demand privacy or is it merely our interest to keep things private? Personally, I believe that privacy is something that we decide on ourselves. First, we have to identify and distinguish the things that we want to keep private or show to the world. Second, there are matters that are have an innate nature of privacy such as taking a bath or changing clothes.

As I am reading this chapter, i realized many things about the topic 'privacy'. The discussions on how privacy is defined and described and the illustration of its concept really helped my understanding and opened my views. Even the philosophers had trouble figuring out the meaning of privacy. According to Tavani, when we try to consult the dictionary on the definition of privacy we would likely find that the concept is described in terms of ideas like security, secrecy, confidentiality, and solitude, and often defined in ways that is difficult to understand its real concept. Privacy needs to be distinguished in terms of concepts to be able to set the correct definition of its concept. Therefore, privacy is defined and segregated to different categories to fully grasp its concept and informational privacy is just one branch or category of that definition.

With the growing internet and more people using it to transmit and receive information, it is part of information ethics to tackle about privacy and how we should be a part of it. The nature of informational privacy has changed throughout the years because of its capacity to change and its dynamic nature. Thus the product is the privacy policies that we see in every website. The next time a website asks us to click the check box and agree to their privacy policy, we must read it before clicking. We should make sure that we do not violate the privacy of others because I am pretty sure that we do not want others to that to us.

What I learned:

- The importance of informational privacy to the society and to our lives
- The dynamicity of information privacy and how it affected us
- Privacy is an essential human value that shields us from intrusion and maltreatment hence it is needed to continue on living a life that is free.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is informational privacy?
2. How do we practice privacy in the internet?
3. Why is a privacy policy important?
4. What do you think is the true essence of privacy?
5. How is privacy important in our lives?

Chapter 7 – Online Anonymity

Author: Kathleen A. Wallace

Quote: “Anonymity is never complete unknowability. For anonymity to obtain there is always some knowledge or identifier of the person, even if it is only in virtue of a single trait or location that cannot be coordinated with other locations.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be knowledgeable in the matter of online anonymity and its importance and effects to online users.
- To have further information about the idea of anonymity

Review:

The general idea of being anonymous excites me like I am Harry Potter wearing an invisibility cloak or Felix the Cat using an invisibility booster from his yellow bag. The concept of being unknown, nameless, and hidden is very tempting in a sense that when you are not held liable for anything because of your nature - the very reason why most of us likes secrets. With the very essence of not wanting to be found excites other people's curiosity and most probably look for what you have hidden. Being anonymous online gives you a sense of freedom such as writing what you feel without thinking about what others might think because they will never know it is you. Even if you write bad things and destroy other people, you will not get caught because you will never be accountable of what you have said or written – you can say it is beauty or it is the cruelty of online anonymity, it depends on your perspective. Anonymity also is very closely related to privacy as it is very helpful when keeping something secluded or concealed.

It is very easy to keep an anonymous identity online especially when we engage into joining social communities like chatrooms, gaming communities, and blogs. Since it is discouraged to reveal personal identity to strangers and to also protect personal information and privacy, online anonymity is highly encouraged. Moreover, we can always give false information on the internet. Online anonymity is a privilege and can be considered as a shield or a safety net to guard ourselves from possible harm and privacy intrusion. Yet, it can also be used on fraudulence over the internet, crimes, and cyber-bullying. As we are living in a very innovative and dynamic world, online anonymity can be traced. The essence of anonymity is not present anymore. A post could be tracked through location-based services especially when you are using smart phones. Also, online anonymity can be unmasked through searching your IP address. You do not have to be computer savvy to know this. Right now, there are numerous of web and mobile applications that are created to track IP addresses – easy as 1-2-3. These unmasking of identities are very helpful especially when anonymity in the internet are used for fraudulent acts and crimes.

In addition, online anonymity is also very helpful with police and investigative operations. Law enforcers and special agents could use this feature to monitor invisibly online and do their jobs effectively without exposing their selves in the public. This is the privacy that they are entitled to as a part of protecting and keeping the public secured and safe. Anonymity can be also used to promote wellness, support advocacy, and create communities that keep our private information such as an online community for people with HIV/AIDS, families with autistic children in their household or teenagers with suicidal tendencies. With the anonymity, they could talk freely about their problems and it could be their means of releasing stress and could be their other form of therapy. I can honestly say that there is still dignity in online anonymity despite the problems that it contributed in the society. Since, everyone and anyone can always post false information in the internet it is up to us to take action and not misuse the privilege of online anonymity.

What I learned:

- I learned the true essence of anonymity, its importance in our lives, and its effects in the current society we are living in.
- I learned that online anonymity is the privilege given to us by the web and must not be abused and misused by using it on bad intentions. Everyone must be ethical enough to protect the internet we are using now and keep it safe especially for children.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is online anonymity?
2. How important is online anonymity?
3. Why do we need online anonymity?
4. What are the effects of online anonymity in our society?
5. What do you think will happen if online anonymity is removed?

Chapter 8 – Ethical Issues Involving Computer Security: Hacking, Hacktivism, and Counterhacking

Author: Kenneth Einar Himma

Quote: “Real trespass is morally wrong, regardless of whether it results in harm, because it violates the owner’s property right to control the uses to which her land is put and hence to exclude other people from its use.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to learn more about the nature of hacking and the skill of counterhacking and the ethical issues it challenged.
- To gain knowledge and understanding about the general idea of hacktivism

Review:

Hacking is usually associated with a negative perception – it is considered as a computer crime. However, we consider hackers to be really cool since we believe hacking as a very difficult task and one must be very intelligent, logical, and gifted in the field of mathematics. All in all, the society’s thinking about the concept of hacking is definitely confused. Right now, the field of information technology have established what we now call Ethical Hacking. The industry is now introducing ethical hacking sessions and giving away industry certifications. It seems like hacking now could be something to be proud of. However, questions from society rose – “Can hacking be morally justified?”, “Does it violate someone else’s privacy?”

Moreover, hacktivism is extensive in our era right now. What is hacktivism, if you may ask? It is when we initiate digital intrusion to express one’s political or moral position. This “activism” does not encourage violence and terrorism it is present to be able to fuel the society in talking about important issues. Can it be justified? If it does more good than harm, then I have no problem with it. However, if it contributes social issues and is not for the greater good, then we should not support it. When you ask me about my opinion in hacking, it depends on the situation. As long as it is for the common good, I am totally okay with it.

What I learned:

- There are a lot of ethical issues involved in hacking and we must participate in its discussion.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is the purpose of hacking?
2. What is hacktivism?
3. How do we counterhack our programs?

Chapter 9 – Information Ethics and the Library Profession

Author: Kay Mathiesen and Don Fallis

Quote: “The idea that libraries ought to be defending the most expansive conception of free speech is hard to defend on democratic grounds. Most people in this society are in favour of some content-based censorship and believe that obscenity, disclosure of national secrets, corporate and commercial speech, and speech likely to create an imminent threat to public safety are all legitimately restricted by the state.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to learn the importance of information ethics in relation to the library profession.
- To be able to learn more about the library profession

Review:

The library is my favourite place in the world next to book stores and vintage shops. The first time I went inside a library, I immediately fell in love. The smell of old books and the knowledge scrambled inside every book. It was just heaven! I could still remember when I was a kid, I insisted my mom to help me apply for a national library id. Every summer of my childhood, instead of playing outside and swimming in the pool, I go to the library to borrow my favourite books. I even wished to be a librarian to surround myself with books –old and new all day. A couple of years, I decided to give up my dream of being a librarian and be an author instead. I dream to write a bestselling novel someday and is still my dream until now. I am even very excited when I found out that we are going to do a book for ITETHIC and register a copyright for it at the national library. I can finally be a national author! Although it is just a book review, I am still happy to do it. Imagine my excitement as I am writing this book from cover to cover.

Library is a place of information and knowledge. We go to library for research works, gathering of data, applied studies, and information consultation. Within this place, intellectual freedom is born and freedom of speech is valued. There must be loads of ethical obligations that the librarian profession is currently challenged. Moreover, the librarian profession must embody the core values of librarianship such as service, intellectual freedom, literacy, and learning. The society, to be able to understand the ethical challenges that the library profession that it is facing, should be able to understand the obligations and mission/vision of the library profession.

Issues such as copyright and intellectual property are directly connected to library profession. With this, information is protected and problems concerning to this would be a direct responsible of the librarian profession. As you can see, information and the library profession are intertwined. Other responsibility of this profession is the organization of topics, information and ideas. They have done their best to be able for quick research and easy access to users like us. I can also say that library

profession can be considered as teachers or educator for they teach us the importance of information and the true of essence of learning. Frankly speaking, their job is very difficult and I must say challenging. I admire those librarians who help people gain knowledge and exposing them to data and information. They are after all, information specialists.

What I learned:

- I learned that the librarian profession contributes to the growth and distribution of information. I also learned their importance to the society and how they mould learners to enhance and increase their knowledge. To exercise our freedom of speech is supported and protected by the librarian profession and we should be able to acknowledge their hard work for what they done with information.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the ethical challenges that the public library is facing?
2. How important is free speech and democracy?
3. What is the core value of the librarian profession?
4. What are the benefits that the librarian profession bring?
5. How is information and librarian profession connected?

Chapter 10 – Ethical Interest in Free and Open Source Software

Author: Frances S. Grodzinsky and Marty J. Wolf

Quote: “Extracting money from users of a program by restricting their use of it is destructive because the restrictions reduce the amount and the ways that the program can be used. This reduces the amount of wealth that humanity derives from the program.”

What I expected to learn:

- I want to learn more about open source software and its influence in information technology.
- I want to know about the connection of ethics to free open source software

Review:

When I hear or read about open source, I always think about WordPress, OpenOffice.org and PHP though I have not really grasped the idea of open source. It is just recently that I have discovered the true meaning of open source and of course with the help of this chapter I was able to fully understand its existence. Open and free source software has contributed a lot of things in the society. Through Open Source Software, we were able to build a large community in the internet. Information is able to flow and distributed freely where everyone is able to learn from one another. Truly, free and open source software has brought a great impact in the society. Just like my experience in GitHub, everyone is posting and sharing their codes to be able to contribute information and research for free. All in all, it has contributed positive effects within the infosphere. We should all support philosophies like this.

What I learned:

- I have learned the true essence of open source and its proper concept. In addition, I was able to understand its importance and the ethical issues that it has been related to. I have learned that the open source philosophy would truly help the society because of the promotion of free software.
- The various impacts of free and open source software in our community.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is open source software?
2. What is the difference between open source software to closed source software?
3. What are the effects of open source to the internet and to the society?
4. How is free and open source software related to information?
5. Why is free software essential?

Chapter 11 – Internet Research Ethics: The Field and Its Critical Issues

Author: Elizabeth S. Buchanan and Charles Ess

Quote: “In one of the well-known formulations of the Kantian Categorical Imperative, this requires us to never treat others only as a means. Treating human autonomies as ends in themselves then entails a number of rights, duties, obligations, and principles; these include those emphasized in human subjects protections, namely, rights to privacy, confidentiality, anonymity, and informed consent.”

What I expected to learn:

- I expected to learn about the field of internet research ethics and the critical issues it discuss.
- I expected to learn about the complete concept of internet research ethics.

Review:

Internet Research Ethics is an emerging multidisciplinary field that studies the moral issues related to the use of internet as a place and mode of research. It is still a young and new field yet to be explored and discovered. Internet is a very big place – it expands over borders and is within reach wherever you are. And because of its open and free nature, information could freely flow in it. Gone were the days when we have to go to a library to research about information and topics. Because of the internet’s fast growth and capability to handle huge stacks of information internet research ethics began. As what I have stated earlier, the nature of internet is open and free and because of it many challenges and problems arise. Examples are the issues about privacy, censorship, anonymity, and more.

We are a growing community of diverse individuals and we should be able to take part in the contribution of internet research ethics. We use internet the everyday and we get information from it everyday. Internet genuinely has become a great part in our lives. We must be able to use for the common good and promote social development. The social scientist, philosophers, and researchers have already done their part now is the time to do ours.

What I learned:

- I have learned the great contribution of internet research ethics in our lives.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is internet research ethics?
2. Why is internet research ethics important?
3. What are the ethical issues that are affecting internet research?
4. What solutions can you suggest to adhere to ethical problems relating to internet research?
5. How can you participate in the development of internet research ethics?

Chapter 12 – Health Information Technology: Challenges in Ethics, Science, and Uncertainty

Author: Kenneth W. Goodman

Quote: “Trust in professional ethics and established health privacy and confidentiality rules encourage individuals to share information they would not want publicly known. In addition, limits on disclosure are designed to protect individuals from tangible and intangible harms due to widespread availability of personal health information. Individual trust in the privacy and confidentiality of their personal health information also promotes public health because individuals with potentially contagious or communicable diseases are not inhibited from seeking treatment. . .”

What I expected to learn:

- To gain more knowledge about the health information technology and its effect in science and ethics.

Review:

Information technology is everywhere. Just two weeks ago, I had a toothache and I need to go to Healthway Clinic in Greenbelt to have a teeth check-up with the dentist. I was surprised that their health records are already automated. I have to go to a computer station to enter my information and stand in front of a webcam to have my picture taken. It was a new experience for me since I am used to the manual and typical process of writing my name on their health records. Also, the nurse told me that if I visit another branch of Healthway I do not have to redo the process all over again because their system is centralized. I was really glad because information technology is taking over the health industry. Actually, the healthcare in different countries uses way advanced technologies than us. However, I am just happy that we are able to cope up with the trend to deliver quality services in our healthcare industry. This is an example on how technology can improve the society.

What I learned:

- I learned that information technology also shaped the health industry and the present health industry that we have right now is a product of modernization and IT.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the different applications of health information technology?
2. How does health information technology affect the health industry?
3. What are the ethical issues faced by health information technology?
4. What are the professional challenges encountered by health information technology?
5. Do you think that health information technology is important? Why? Why not?

Chapter 13 – Ethical Issues of Information and Business

Author: Bernd Carsten Stahl

Quote: “The aim of business organizations according to standard economic theory is the maximization of profits. Such organizations will, therefore, aim to minimize cost and maximize revenue. Information has a value for businesses if it can contribute to either of these aims. The business value of information is thus linked to financial gains it can achieve. This is independent of the philosophical debate in information ethics of whether information has an intrinsic value.”

What I expected to learn:

- I expected to learn the value of ethics in businesses
- I expected to learn the different ethical issues concerning business and information.

Review:

Business and our economy have great influence in our society - mainly because both are involved in social progress and money. The society is very dependent on money because it basically describes a country by money. Hey, this country is rich – it’s a first-world country. Gross, this country is so poor – it is only a third-world country. As you can see, money manipulates everything even information. Information is also one important aspect in our lives. Without any information, we could not function. No education, no money, no exchange of ideas, no anything! I guess this is where ethics need to step up – to guide is in going through the right path and doing the right things. Ethical business issues like globalization, privacy, and intellectual property law are issues that the business and information field is facing. Because of the information that we acquire each day, more questions are arising and we left to many unanswered questions. However, all of us must try to provide a solution on these on-going problems. We must not stop until we have found the answers that we are looking for. To address these business issues, it may help us in progress and development. Also, being ethical is just the right track to social advancement and morality is ought to practiced whatever industry you are in or whatever profession you practice.

What I learned:

- I learned that business and information have strong connection with each other. It is basically inter-connected and to address one moral issue concerning business affects information too.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are examples of business-related ethical concerns?
2. How does globalization affect information and business?
3. What is the author’s argument about business-ethical issues and computer and information ethics?
4. How is business and ethics related?

Chapter 14 – Responsibilities for Information on the Internet

Author: Anton Vedder

Quote: “Before the Internet came into existence, offensive and harmful information was far more difficult to attain. You had to go to a bookshop. You had to await the mailing of the local aberrant political denomination. Or you could switch on your radio or television, fold open your tabloid, and wait for silly information. Now, silliness, bigotry, and sheer hate are just some mouse clicks away from you, to take in when, where, and for as long as you like.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be educated on how to be responsible over the information we post online.

Review:

Numerous of information communicated is transmitted through networks and is going to land on the internet. Every day we send emails to our love ones abroad, post a funny comment on 9gag, and like a really cool status on Facebook – yes, all information being sent over the internet. Also, we do not only transmit information but we also download it. Somehow, it is a mutualistic relationship – give and take. We are very accustomed in using the computer and sometimes very overwhelmed in posting pictures of our recent escapades or blog about our feelings. However, we tend to forget that internet expands through borders and is a very open source of information. We do not realize that we post in the internet are going to be there forever. This is where responsibility kicks in. Yes, we have to be responsible over the information we place in the web. We might not be aware that we have already offended and harmed someone online. Right now, cyber bullying is very rampant to kids and is a type of new hybrid kid victimization. Also, the spread of scandalous videos are proliferating too. We should be able to monitor the information we send on the web. We should encrypt our files to avoid being victimized by online scandals. We must practice accountability at all times especially on the internet because we never know who can see what we sharing online. This is not only responsibility but also a practice of discipline and sense of obligation.

What I learned:

- I learned the importance of being responsible to our actions especially when we are using the internet to avoid offense in others and to be able to create a harmonious environment online.
- I learned that our actions how little it may be can always affect others.

Integrative Questions:

1. Why is it important to use the internet responsibly?
2. Why do we have to be accountable for our actions?
3. In what way that the information that we post online affects the society?
4. What can you contribute on promoting awareness to responsible use of the web?

Chapter 15 – Virtual Reality and Computer Simulation

Author: Philip Brey

Quote: “Computer simulations are used in the natural and social sciences to gain insight into the functioning of natural and social systems and in the engineering sciences for performance optimization, safety engineering, training, and education. They are used on a large scale in the natural and engineering sciences, where such fields have sprung up as computational physics, computational neuroscience, computational fluid mechanics, computational meteorology, and artificial life.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to accumulate information on virtual reality and the topic of computer simulation.
- To be able to learn the uses and functions of computer simulation.

Review:

Computer simulation became very popular to teenagers these days. There is some excitement and pleasure in creating a virtual world and being a part of it. I have been exposed to computer at a very early age in my life. Even in my personal experience, I feel so attached easily with the virtual world I belong to like role playing games and simulation games like SIMS. It feels so real, interactive, and fun at the same time. Also, I could use my imagination and creativity to a greater extent.

In addition, I could use virtual reality in creating three-dimensional graphs for my art class. Right now, I am developing a virtual reality type of computer application through the use of X-box 360 Kinect Sensor. This application that I have developed is for children with autism to help them develop their hand-eye coordinator and locomotors. The application could detect the children’s movements through the use of the sensor. The sensor is the medium so that the children could interact with the application and play games with it. Virtual reality and computer simulation are such great concepts!

What I learned:

- I have learned the four essential elements of virtual reality according to Sherman and Craig. These four elements can fully describe the genuine concept of virtual reality: virtual world, immersion, sensory feedback, and interactivity. I learned that virtual reality and computer simulation affects human so much because there is somehow a feeling of belongingness. Deciding what you want to become without any judgement.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is virtual reality?
2. What is computer simulation?
3. How are they affecting our computer usage?

Chapter 16 – Genetic Information: Epistemological and Ethical Issues

Author: Antonio Marturano

Quote: “The transfer of information from nucleic acid to nucleic acid or from nucleic acid to proteins may be possible . . . but transfer from protein to protein or from protein to nucleic acid is impossible. Information means here the precise determination of sequence, either of bases in the nucleic acid and or of amino acid residues in the protein.”

What I expected to learn:

- I expected to learn more about genetic information and the corresponding issues with it.
- I want to learn about the foundation of generic information and its concepts

Review:

As I am reading this chapter, I could not help but wonder about how genetic information is even possible. I was not able to fully grasp what genetic information is all about and its purposes in the society. Yes, there is a genetic code and it contains information from our brains that freely flow in our bodies. Transmission of information must be systematically organized. In the normative view, a basic model of communication is this: Information is sent by the sender and transmitted through a channel and is finally received by the recipient and it could go both ways with the premise that the information is still the same. However, you could not do that with “genetic information”. Once a gene is transmitted, it could not go back to its previous form – there is no systematic organization. I, for one, totally believe in that. Moreover, I believe that the concept of information does not really apply to genes – DNA. Yet, as I have reached the conclusion of the chapter I was pleased to read the arguments and methods that was presented and capability of human beings to research and formulate such ideas. I hope more people would engage into intellectual conversations more often.

What I learned:

- I have learned that the field of genetics has used numerous concepts from informatics.
- I have learned many arguments that want to support genetic information and those who disagree with it. I like it because we get to argue and share our ideas about a topic like genetic information.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are genetics?
2. What is genetic information?
3. What are the epistemological and ethical issues concerning genetic information?
4. Why do we need generic information?

Chapter 17 – The Ethics of Cyber Conflict

Author: Dorothy E. Denning

Quote: “This domain of conflict includes hacktivism, which is the convergence of hacking with activism and civil disobedience, and cyberterrorism, which uses hacking as a means of terrorism. In both cases, the objective is change of a political or social nature, but whereas the activist generally avoids causing physical injury or property damage, the terrorist seeks to kill and destroy.”

What I expected to learn:

- I expected to learn the definition of cyber conflict
- I expected to learn the ethical and moral issues related to cyber conflict

Review:

Cyber attacks/ cyber conflicts is unethical and illegal. It is quite connected to hacking, which somehow I defended on the previous chapter. But, I will not allow cyber conflict at all. Cyber conflict is a type of hacking wherein computer viruses are spread or launch to scare or prove a point to the government. Basically, I do not think that there is integrity in cyber warfare as it promotes negative effects to the society. Some computer scientist and techy geeks would practice cyber attacks to gain popularity and boast their intelligence which I think is a very irresponsible use of technology. Because of these cyber conflicts, cyberterrorism is born – a combination of cyber attack plus terrorism. This topic is a very serious one. Clearly, it is obvious on how the cyberspace is violated and used as a means to hurt others. This is purely unethical. Moreover, the government should take action about these attacks. I do not want the internet to be unsafe and filled with hatred. This will not help us in our dreams of advancement and progress.

What I learned:

- Cyber conflict is not really a good thing. It promoted chaos, violence, and disorder. This is a crime that would really affect the society. This does more bad effects than good. Moreover, it triggers terrorism – this is a very serious issue that all of us must ponder upon. I also learned that it is quite connected to “hacktivism”.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is cyber conflict?
2. What are the ethical issues discussed in this chapter?
3. Do you believe in cyber conflict? Why? Why not?
4. Could cyber conflict be justified? Why? Why not?

Chapter 18 – A Practical Mechanism for Ethical Risk Assessment – A SoDIS Inspection

Author: Don Gotterbarn, Tony Clear, and Choon-Tuck Kwan

Quote: “Research in software quality has focused largely on the technical aspects of quality improvement, while limited attention has been paid to the organizational and socio-behavioural aspects of quality management.”

What I expected to learn:

- I want to learn the practical methods for ethical risk assessment.
- I want to learn more about risk assessment and its importance.

Review:

“The availability of high-quality software is critical for the effective use of information technology in organizations.” – This is the perfect opening statement to my perspective. When you have to produce a quality research output, you need the right facilities and robust equipment. Yet, problems are still present because even if you have the best materials, if your information system is not correct then you will always fail. In our Benilde curriculum, we are taught seventy percentage of technology and the thirty remaining is for business. With studying information systems, one must find out the main problem of a company and design a good system and solution after. My sister always says that procedures are very important and if you have one, you must always follow it to avoid problems and crisis in the future.

Moreover, I have studied about risk planning and assessment. I was the risk management head once for a project. I have to look at the outsider’s point of view and pin-point all the possible risks and challenges that the event is going to experience and create a risk contingency plan for it. I also realized that with risk assessment and control, one back-up plan is not enough. There is always room for Plan B, Plan C, Plan E until Plan Z. It is also important to identify risks – whether it is quantitative or qualitative. With that list, we are now able to prioritize risks and determine the right solution for it. My sister once said, “When you hit the right problem, then you are ninety over a hundred done.” I am thankful for that project management class because I was able to learn the concept of risk assessment and its uses to our lives.

What I learned:

- I learned the true essence of risk assessment and how it is important in relation to ethical discussions. Risk identification must also be done properly to be able to find the correct solution.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is risk assessment?
2. What are the ethical issues related to it?
3. How do you identify something as a risk?

Chapter 19 – Regulation and Governance of the Internet

Author: John Weckert and Yeslam Al-Saggaf

Quote: "Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet."

What I expected to learn:

- To study the different approved regulations that governs the internet that we use.

Review:

Everything in this world must be in order and in peace. I believe it the reason why we have a government in the first place and it is their role to keep the world harmonious to everyone. Laws, regulations, rules, and policies are created to guide us and lead us on doing what is just, proper, and moral. We live on an imperfect world and we too are imperfect. There will always be chaos. People will have to break rules. Thus, the rules will serve as our guides to help us do the right things and fulfil our obligations as citizens of this world. And, those who disobeyed the rules will receive punishment and those obey them will be rewarded.

As what is required in our society, rules are really needed which is it is also present in the internet. There are terms and conditions in every website and also privacy policies that we must read and understand in order to keep an organized and good community in the internet. The next time we are asked to read those policies, we must certainly read it before continuing to the next page. This is pure obedience and discipline and these values are needed to be able to have a peaceful and effective society even in the internet.

What I learned:

- I learned that following rules is very important and we must be capable in respecting the government, its laws and its policies. You can never go wrong when you are disciplined enough to do what is right and what is expected from all of us.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are the regulations in the internet that we are aware of?
2. How do our country/ government control the use of internet?
3. Why is internet governance important?
4. What do you think would happen if there no rules and regulations in the society?

Chapter 20 – Information Overload

Author: David M. Levy

Quote: “On the face of it, information overload would seem to be a straightforward phenomenon (an excess of information) with a straightforward cause (the recent explosion of information technologies).”

What I expected to learn:

- I expected to learn more about explanations regarding information overload and its effects.

Review:

Information overload is definitely here to party. With the increasing use of technology and new gadgets sprouting like mushrooms everywhere, say hello to Windows Phone, Android Phone, iOs Phone, Blackberry Phones, tablets, and gaming consoles! Also the internet is here to stay with unlimited sources of research and educational materials and the one and only hub of social media. One would truly suffer from information overload today, no doubt about it. A person would truly be confused on what to do next, what gadget to buy, and what information to retain from all of these. However, information overload keeps a subjective state. Each person’s capacity is different from one another and each one handles stress differently. One may think that they are already on their limits and another one would still keep going. As you can see, every individual varies on their coping process. Mr. K would probably be stressed after 5 hours of studying while Mr. C would already be depressed after 2 hours of studying. Also, with this information overload we feel stressed and harassed afterwards. Incapability to function well, process information and decision-making are the effects we experience when we have reached our limits. Information overload is quite a complaint lately especially me every after my programming classes and my thesis revisions. My head seemed like bursting and my eye balls wanted to pop out from my eyes. I need to stop and take a break from everything. Right now, I am on the verge of information overload too. Too much information about informational ethics makes me really dizzy but I am really learning a lot.

What I learned:

- Human beings are very dynamic, interactive, and adaptive creatures which is why we often do a lot of things at one time. We must not abuse our body to avoid illness from information overload because I have learned that stress could damage our body tissues and wear down our body’s machinery.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is information overload?
2. How do we decide if we are suffering from information overload?

Chapter 21 – Email Spam

Author: Keith W. Miller and James H. Moor

Quote: “Handshaking protocols have been proposed to distinguish between authentic permanent email return addresses and those substitutes, but none has so far been implemented on a wide scale.”

What I expected to learn:

- To have an idea on what an email spam is all about.

Review:

My idea of an email spam is those unwanted emails I receive from random people with questionable email addresses. I get really irritated when I receive this kind of emails for it always, always fill my inbox and it is very hard to clean and organize my email account. Even though I have filtered email spams they always find a way to go inside my inbox and create a clutter out of it. I am also kind of scared receiving “spam” since they are associated to hacking and virus. Some emails are even provocative and promotes pornography. I got in trouble once because of it. I forgot to logout my email account (not a good practice even when you are not on a public computer) and my mom used the computer to check her email. Upon clicking logout she saw messages on my inbox with offensive and pornographic-related email subject, she got angry and scolded me right away without hearing my side. The worst thing that happened to me with this spam issue is when my email address is sending out random messages to people on my address book and the content is offensive. I got an email from my high school teacher asking me why I sent such vulgar emails. I got to explain her that I did not send any emails and its 100% spam. She did not take it against me but is joking me about it every chance she gets. Numerous spam emails are sent everyday – spams that are using somebody else’s emails, temporary bulk emails, and fake emails. These messages contribute traffic and lessen the storage space for your real and important emails. Spam messages also are sources of serious problems for emails such as spreading virus, illegal bank fraud and stolen identities. There must be a law that regulates the sending of these unwanted emails. However, it is quite impossible right now because the internet is open to the world and function of laws and its jurisdiction is limited only to a country. The spam could be from Russia or Uganda and you are currently residing in the Philippines and their country maybe has a law about spam – this would definitely create conflict.

What I learned:

- It gave me more information about spam and its characteristics which I find very informative.

Integrative Questions:

1. What are email spams?
2. How does an email spam operate?

Chapter 22 – The Matter of Plagiarism: What, Why, and If

Author: John Snapper

Quote: "Industry specific standards can create an ethical and legal morass with huge transaction costs. Moreover, we must remember that the present situation is the consequence of rapidly changing technology, and any attempt at a reasonable solution for today's technology may turn out to be a mistake tomorrow."

What I expected to learn:

- To learn the problem regarding plagiarism and the reasons why it is rampant nowadays.

Review:

Plagiarism is a serious issue. It is very alarming how a huge number of students and even government officials plagiarise their work. Plagiarism is a crime and is unethical. No one is excused from it. The very act of plagiarism is just wrong – getting the work of someone else and claiming it to be yours. I do not know why it is rampant in the first place. Is it because technology has given us easier access to different kinds of information? Or maybe is it purely a character problem that needs to change? Okay fine, internet made your life easier and opened a whole stack of pure shiny information. It does not mean that you lose your manners and forgot to cite someone else's work. What really disturbs me in this crime is the fact that you tried to deceive someone. This is cheating and must be condemned. It is actually a digital way of stealing.

In my opinion, the reason why plagiarism is proliferating and spreading like wildfire is because of the values that we lost and lifestyle change. Most of the teenagers do not realize the value of sacrifice. Maybe life has become too easy for us because of the use of technology. Most of us do not go to libraries anymore and consult books for research. The internet has given everything that we need and everything that we want. We think that everything can be done in an instant and failed to realize the value of hard work and time. Also, we do not give importance to integrity and honesty that much because we can always lie and be anonymous in the internet. To be able to stop plagiarism, what everyone needs is an attitude makeover.

What I learned:

- I learned that plagiarism is never a good thing and must be discouraged especially to students.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is plagiarism?
2. Why is plagiarism proliferating over the internet?

Chapter 23 – Intellectual Property: Legal and Moral Challenges of Online File Sharing

Author: Richard A. Spinello

Quote: “Taking property without permission is wrong. Recorded music is property. Taking recorded music without permission is therefore wrong as well.”

What I expected to learn:

- To know more information about intellectual property, its importance, its uses, and its ethical challenges.

Review:

Intellectual Property is very important and just lately issues regarding its protection has brought outrage in the internet community. When the government of the United States of America wants to pass a law regarding in the protection of intellectual property rights and its effects on permanently scarring and violating the nature of a free and open internet, the people was alarmed and big organizations and computer companies like Wikipedia and Mozilla Firefox have expressed their disagreements.

The discussion and ethical views about online file sharing varies in every person. There are some who agrees and there are others who disagree. In my own opinion, file sharing is not a problem. Why do they care with what you want to share over the internet – may it be music, books, movies, or documents. These are your files and you want them to share it with others. Moreover, I think the concept and how people understand intellectual property is a bit confused these days. When it comes to piracy, I do not think that we can prevent them. Yes, piracy is illegal and unethical and I am also totally against it. But we could not do anything about it. That is the main feature of internet – free flowing information for everyone. The government legislations like PIPA and SOPA is completely harming the open internet and resource of everyone.

What I learned:

- I learned the different issues concerning intellectual property and online file sharing. Clearly, everyone has different opinions about it. Piracy is completely unethical and illegal however we must not damage the internet just because of that.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is intellectual property?
2. What are the issues concerning online file sharing?
3. How do we protect and respect intellectual property rights?
4. What are the ethical and legal issues as regards to intellectual property?

Chapter 24 – Censorship and Access to Expression

Author: Kay Mathiesen

Quote: “No one wants to be a censor. Or, more precisely, no one wants to be called a “censor.” To describe a person as a censor, or an act as one of “censorship,” is to condemn the person or the action.”

What I expected to learn:

- To learn the importance and value of censorship to online information.

Review:

In my own perspective, I believe that censorship is important especially with all of the information that internet has access to. First of all, numerous people are accessing the internet every day – men and women, old and young, poor and rich. We really do not know those people who access our information. For me, censorship is there to be able to filter information. What if kids are the one who are accessing information about pornography, violence or drugs? This is really a must in the internet. I remembered how my team and I are developing software for children with autism. It has a feature that gets information in the internet for the flash cards. One parent asked us “does your software filters information from the internet? I do not want my children to know about sex and drugs. They are just 2 and 4.” I believe that censorship is for the benefit of the greater good.

What I learned:

- I learned that censorship is really important in the internet no matter what the issue is. The internet is a vast place of information and it is somehow must be filtered especially for children.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is censorship?
2. How important is censorship of online information?
3. Do you think it is necessary?
4. What are the ethical issues related to censorship?

Chapter 25 – The Gender Agenda in Computer Ethics

Author: Alison Adam

Quote: “It is hard to see why women’s apparent tendency toward more ethical behaviour should make them more conservative. There appears to be a jump in reasoning here with several steps skipped over. “Conservative” in this context means less likely to take risks and more likely to conform to established societal norms. This does not follow from the research issues involved in these studies but starts to look like a stereotypical judgment about an expectation of men’s more “laddish” behaviour against a “well behaved” female stereotype where women are seen as guardians of society’s morals.”

What I expected to learn:

- I want to learn about the gender agenda in computer ethics.
- I expect to learn about the feminist theory and its relation to computer ethics.

Review:

Gender equality is still a problem today. There are still countries in the world treat women as second class citizens. Moreover, the notion that men are stronger and more intellectual than women and women are more emotional and more conservative than men is still present in our modern society. I cannot help but wonder why there are still gender sensitivity issues in this world. Gender equality is even a part of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal which clearly shows that it is among one of the serious problems needed to be resolved together with poverty and lack of education. This is not just one simple issue but is actually part of a bigger problem. Everyone must accept that men and women are created equal and the unjust treatment of the society to women must stop.

With regards to computer ethics, a term called “cyberfeminism” is discussed upon. Cyberfeminism is binding the feminist theory/ feminist ethics and computer ethics together. It discusses on how decisions on computer analysis are made by men and women and compare them with each other.

What I learned:

- I have learned that despite the growth of our society and the changes that technology brought, there are still biases against women. We must be able to address them because there should be gender equality in this world.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is cyberfeminism?
2. What is gender related to the study of computer ethics?
3. Why gender inequality is still present in our society today?
4. Do you think we can remove gender issues in the society? Why? Why not?

Chapter 26 – The Digital Divide: A Perspective of the Future

Author: Maria Canellopolou-Bottis and Kenneth Einar Himma

Quote: “The digital divide is not any one particular gap between rich and poor, local and global, but rather includes a variety of gaps believed to bear on the world’s inequitable distribution of resources.”

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to find out the concept of “Digital Divide” and how it would change the future.

Review:

It is sad to say that poverty is still one of the world’s toughest problems needed to be solved. There are poor people around us and it is sad to admit that yes, the number is quite growing every year. Moreover, people who suffer absolute poverty – those who are below the poverty line in our class system are treated with less respect. People, rich or poor, must be treated equally since everyone has the same dignity that is treasured. Treating poor people like vermin is completely a violation of their human right. People who are poor are experiencing malnutrition, homeless, and do not have potable water to drink. Basically, they are denied from achieving the basic needs of man. Moreover, since they have no enough resources, poor children are denied from having any education at all.

This is a really sad thing and must be solved. The idea of digital divide is saying that the distribution of informational resources is not equal. One must be able to look past our financial status in life and must be able to be entitled on every informational resource there is to everyone. Injustices in relation to poverty must be stopped and as a growing society we must be able to look at this ethical issue with an open mind.

What I learned:

- I learned about the concept of digital divide and its goal to solve absolute poverty. I learned that many philosophers and researchers even in the computer industry who would want to help out eradicate poverty.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is digital divide?
2. What is the relationship between digital divide and absolute poverty?
3. Why is poverty a never-ending problem in our society?
4. Do you think technology will be able to solve absolute poverty?

Chapter 27 – Intercultural Information Ethics

Author: Rafael Capurro

Quote: "Compassion naturally arises from this realization when one realizes that other beings are no different from oneself. All want to get rid of suffering, and all do want happiness. The benefit of this realization for information ethics is that compassion is the key that determines the value of an action."

What I expected to learn:

- To be able to gain knowledge in the foundation of moral philosophies
- To be able to know the impact of morality depending on different cultural influences
- To be able to find out if globalization have affected our views in morality

Review:

There are abundant perspectives and insights on how morality is viewed and should be treated – colourfully different in every culture and even religion. Debates and arguments arise to support and justify their ideas and general concepts on informational ethics. With globalization and the presence of technology, we have to really understand the foundation and sources of morality to be able to cater to current trends and provide specific issue discussions on the arising challenges of today. From this chapter, I was able to understand that certain cultures keep a degree of sensitivity to what they know and to the ideas they want to accept. We must be able to keep a normative character in order to respect their ideals. With technology, different barriers related to culture are now destroyed and more people are open to new set of ideas to be able to learn from each other. It is now creating a mutualistic environment where everyone is contributing for the benefit of the common good.

What I learned:

- I have learned that truly our local culture and our environment have affected our views about morality. There are different perspectives on how morality is presented, discussed, and argued. With the presence of globalization, one must be able to keep an open mind to be able expand your horizons and increase your learning and knowledge about morality and intercultural information ethics. Though we do not agree on some point but at least we opened our minds and listened to what others have to say.

Integrative Questions:

1. How is our view about morality affected by culture?
2. What is intercultural information ethics?
3. What is the view of morality according to your culture?
4. Do you agree with the concept of morality on your culture? Why? Why not?
5. What is your current view about morality?

Part II - Contemporary Moral Problems

I - Egoism and Moral Scepticism

By James Rachels

Review Questions:

1. Explain the legend of Gyges. What questions about morality are raised by the story?

The legend of Gyges is pointing out that the man's true nature is corrupt. Since the shepherd is already invisible, he is already freed from the fear of reprisal thus he can do whatever he pleases. He took the king's crown, seduced the queen, and abused power. If a virtuous man took the ring on the other hand, Glaucon believes that the virtuous man will do the same thing as the shepherd. . It is simply saying that man is obeying rules and regulations because he does not want to be given sanctions for not doing so. Once he is not anymore bounded with those obligations he will show his true nature which is to only look after himself and no one else. If given absolute freedom, will a person be moral? That, I believe, is the question raised in the story.

2. Distinguish between psychological and ethical egoism.

Psychological Egoism is saying that all men are selfish. Men is helping strangers because he know that he would benefit from it thus only acting on self-interest. The view on Ethical Egoism is than men do not care about others as long he behaves on a way that he pleases no matter the effect on others.

3. Rachels discusses two arguments for psychological egoism. What are these arguments, and how does he reply to them?

Rachels illustrated an example: given that Smith gives up a trip to the country which he enjoys very much for a friend in need. The illustration given is an act of unselfishness. The first argument is saying that Smith could not be acting unselfishly. Even if he would enjoy the vacation he gave up, staying behind for a friend is merely doing what he wants to do. He should not be praised for his unselfishness because it only goes to show that he just wanted to do it but not acting unselfishly. According to Rachels, this is false. A person could do a certain action not because he wants to do it but he is obliged to do so and sometimes we feel guilt or sense of conflict when we do not do what we are obliged to do. With this, Smith might stay behind for the reason that he is obliged to help his friend and would want to make his friend happy. That feeling of obligation does not exist when you do not care for that person. This very action is what makes him unselfish.

The second argument is this: "Unselfish actions" as what psychological egoism suggested, always gives a sense of satisfaction and peace of mind to the person. Smith could be staying behind because he feels much better helping his friend than going to the country which totally makes him selfish. However, as what Rachels would say the argument is completely silly. If Smith is truly selfish, why would it bother his conscience going to a trip and not helping his friend? It is simply because he cares for his friend and wants him to be happy. If Smith

does not care for his friend he would not be happy staying behind. Moreover, no person would crave for "peace of mind" before the achievement of a goal. We have to reach a certain goal first before getting any sense of satisfaction. And just like Smith that we want to desire the welfare of others before our own, this makes us truly unselfish.

4. What three commonplace confusions does Rachels detect in the thesis of psychological egoism?

In the theory of psychological egoism, first is the confusion of selfishness with self-interest. Selfishness ignores the interests of others in times when it should not be ignored. An example is hoarding food while others are starving. Self-interest on the other hand, is acting on your own interest but not necessarily selfish. Working hard and obeying the law are all in my self-interest but are all unselfish actions. Second confusion is assuming that all action is done either from self-interest or from motives. There is true selflessness in this world. The third confusion is assuming that a concern for one's own welfare is unsuited with any true concern for the welfare of others. There is no inconsistency if we want to have a good life for ourselves and for others.

5. State the argument for saying that ethical egoism is inconsistent. Why doesn't Rachels accept this argument?

Ethical egoism is inconsistent for a fact that it cannot be universalized. Ethical egoists would not want to promote their way of life to others since it would be to their disadvantage. He would want to live on a world where he can maximise his self-interest and others will be philanthropist. If ever everyone follows the theory of ethical egoism, we would only fall into inconsistency. An example would be cheating on others and be angry at them if they cheat on you.

6. According to Rachels, why shouldn't we hurt others, and why should we help others? How can the egoist reply?

We should not do actions that would hurt others is solely because other people would be hurt. We should do actions that would help others is solely because other people would be benefitted. The egoist will never accept this reason but he will not argue since there are limits to what the argument can achieve given the situation that the egoist truly does not care about others.

II - Religion and Morality

By John Arthur

Review Questions:

1. According to Arthur, how are morality and religion different?

Morality, according to Arthur, is to evaluate the behaviour of others and to feel guilt over the actions that we do. It involves man's attitude towards different kinds of actions such as cheating or stealing. On the other hand, religion is the belief in supernatural powers and the recognition of its existence and presence. It involves prayer, devotion, dogmas about the supernatural, institutional forms, and authoritative texts.

2. Why isn't religion necessary for a moral motivation?

Religion is not necessary for moral motivation simply because people can be moral and does not believe on religion at the same time. A person's basis on making a moral decision is not related to religion. A person might not steal because of his fear of getting caught or the feeling of regret afterwards not because of his religion.

3. Why isn't religion necessary as a source of moral knowledge?

Religion is not necessary as a source of moral knowledge because we need to consider on how much we know about religion in order to give a person moral guidance. Moreover, a person must think about which of the many religions are true given that numerous religions currently exist today. Arthur said that it is easier to weigh the pros and cons of the situation that going to religion which is more complex to understand.

4. What is the divine command theory? Why does Arthur reject this theory?

Divine command theory is God's commandments given to man. God is the foundation on which morality is built. Without God, there could be no right or wrong. A thing is right simply because God commands it. Arthur rejects this theory because what if one day God decides that everything ill would be good and vice versa. He compared this to parents who want their children to do the right thing by commanding it to them. Yet, it does not mean parents can make a thing right by simply commanding it. Another example is of that of the Greek gods and goddesses. Holiness is just whatever all the gods love and what they do not love is not holy. This meant that the gods have no basis for their actions.

5. According to Arthur, how are morality and religion connected?

Religion over the years influenced morality and morality also influenced religion. With the understanding of revelation texts in religion is shaped by morality as people seek the best interpretation on how to read it. Also, for many religious people the understanding of moral

obligations goes into a personal level – their constant search of self-worth and to be the person they want to be religion-wise and morally-wise.

6. Dewey says that morality is social. What does this mean, according to Arthur?

Morality is social in a sense that other's opinions matter to us. Sometimes our decisions are based upon whether should we be praised on it or blamed. However, it does not mean that we need to always please the society and measure up to their expectations. It means that our conscience would want to examine our thoughts first before acting upon them. The power of conscience enables us to think about the welfare of others. What if we put ourselves into another people's place? How do we feel? Is it fair? Understanding how others might feel about our actions and reflecting on our own actions is the very essence that morality is social.

III - Natural Law

By Saint Thomas Aquinas

Review Questions:

1. Distinguish between the eternal law and the natural law. How are they related?

God is the foundation of eternal law since God made everything according to a divine plan. God is the ruler of the eternal law and with the divine plan he created, everything has a purpose. Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. God also gave humans free will and the light of natural reason that enables humans to recognize the eternal law. The natural law is a part of the eternal law wherein humans can identify between right and wrong. It is our capability because of our natural light of reason thus we are able to act morally.

2. What are the precepts of the natural law? Specifically what should we do, and what we avoid?

The precept of natural law is the self-evident truth that what is good must be done and what is evil must be avoided. According to Aquinas, what is naturally good to humans are right and what is unnatural is wrong. Therefore natural inclinations such as preservation of life, sexual intercourse, and avoiding offense to others are good. Doing acts that are against our natural inclinations such as abortion, euthanasia, and war are what we to be avoided.

IV - Morality is based on Sentiment

By David Hume

Review Questions:

1. According to Hume, how do morals have an influence on action?

Morals have an influence on action since morals stimulate desires, and produce actions or prevent them. These desires, feelings and affections that are greatly affected by morals are not derived from reason. Therefore, morality must not be a product of our reasons since actions and affections are not resulting from reason.

2. Explain Hume's argument about incest.

According to Hume, why is incest immoral to men when animals that are very much similar to human species can do so without being thought of as wicked or immoral? To animals this could be an innocent act since they lack the natural light of reason that humans have. Hume argues that before reasons can say that an action is immoral the immorality of the action must already exist and with this case the argument would go into a never-ending circular reasoning. Incest becomes immoral or wicked to man because of our feelings of displeasure and sentiments of disapproval. Our feelings influence our morals and not reasons.

3. What is Hume's point about "is" and "ought"?

"Is" and "ought" are not the same and thus should not be equated. Using "ought" would subject to relation of ideas which requires one to observe, reason out, and justify. Moreover, the difference between vice and virtue cannot be defined upon reason alone.

4. How does Hume explain ingratitude?

Ingratitude could not be explained by either matter of fact or of relations. This crime is upon the passion or ill-will or absolute indifference of the person who is ungrateful. In conclusion, not everything can be explained by reason like morality which he claimed to be completely sentimental.

V - Ethical Relativism

By William Shaw

Review Questions:

1. Explain Shaw's distinction between the two types of ethical relativism.

The two types of ethical relativism are cultural ethical relativism and individual ethical relativism. Cultural ethical relativism is the theory that what is right to a culture is right. What is right in one culture can be wrong in another culture. It depends on the moral system of the society where an act occurs. On the other hand, individual ethical relativism is not relative to culture but to the individual wherein what an individual thinks is right is right.

2. Why does he reject the second type, the theory that makes morality relative to the individual?

This is not plausible for the reason that it fails to distinguish an act that is actually right if you only think that is right. A person might also believe that his actions are right but actually are wrong. Also, you might think that you have done the right thing but later changed your mind. This type of theory is confusing and there is no exact basis of morality.

3. Shaw thinks the theory that morality is relative to society is more plausible. Why?

Cultural ethical relativism is more plausible since there is a moral code that a specific culture or society follows. Moral obligations may vary from one culture to another. Right and wrong depends on what the society or culture dictates and it has already worked to different types of our current society today.

4. According to Shaw, what are the problems facing cultural ethical relativism? Why does he think it is false?

Cultural ethical relativism is completely false. Given on a certain society, people believe that abortion is legal because the majority says so. However, when some people realizes its nature and would want to reform the law and stop abortion. They would have to get majority of the votes to ban abortion. If the reform is successful, then abortion would be banned. However, it could change again next year if someone else would want to reform the law about abortion. Moreover, cultural ethical relativism does not allow valid moral criticism. We cannot honestly say that cannibalism in tribes of Papua New Guinea is morally right. A society can still make moral mistakes like this which why it is not completely reliable.

VI - Utilitarianism

By John Stuart Mill

Review Questions:

1. State and explain the Principle of Utility. Show how it could be used to justify actions that are conventionally viewed as wrong, such as lying and stealing.

Principle of Utility is also called as the Greatest Happiness Principle wherein it is right to do things that will make you happy and it is wrong to do the things that will make you unhappy. Lying and stealing are viewed as wrong since it promotes pain and suffering.

2. How does Mill reply to the objection that epicureanism is a doctrine worthy only of swine?

It is degrading to compare the human's pleasure to that of animals because it would only mean that the happiness of the animals is completely the same to humans. It is simply impossible to say so since men have higher thinking capacity than swine and therefore would have a different meaning of happiness – a greater sense of pleasure.

3. How does Mill distinguish between higher and lower pleasures?

It depends on the preference and the priority of the agent where he might feel more pleasure or less pleasure.

4. According to Mill, whose happiness must be considered?

Happiness of the greater good must be considered aside from your own happiness since you cannot be truly happy when others are suffering. We are all connected to one another and is indirectly affected to the actions of others.

5. Carefully reconstruct Mill's proof of the Principle of Utility.

Principle of Utility is to achieve the ultimate happiness. Objects of desire like money and jewellery are only the means to attain happiness.

About the Author

Camille Ann Domingo is a 19-year old Information Systems student of De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde. She grew up on a very conservative family in Davao City and is the third child and the tallest among four girl siblings. Aside from doing her studies, she is a volunteer teacher for the out-of-school youths in her community and is also one of the proponents of KidCAMP, software designed to aid children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). She is currently living in Manila with her eldest sister to pursue her college education and to fulfil her dreams. She loves to bake cakes, read books and write musings on her past time. Check and follow her blog at <http://hellocam.tumblr.com>.