

Chapter 1: The internet, ethical values, and conceptual frameworks

“Ethics On-Line” (Deborah G. Johnson)

Learning Expectations:

To learn about what other people think of the behavior of the persons while on-line.

Quote:

“Trust seems to be built on the development of expectations that continue to be met. Individuals feel deceived and betrayed when they have expectations that are not met. I expect that my friend will not tell anyone what I have said. I expect when I enter a discussion with colleagues that what I will say will be treated with respect. I expect that my friends will not lie to me. And so on. My trust is betrayed when individuals fail to fulfill these expectations.”

Book Review:

Today, the World Wide Web is frequently used by people for different purposes. Some individuals consider being connected electronically as a necessity. There are a variety of ways one has in being in this network, for social, business, and entertainment are to name a few. Deborah Johnson observed the behavior in which people practice while on-line and cited some differences while they are off-line. She identified 3 features of online communication namely, scope, anonymity, and reproducibility.

The scope she refers to is the ranges of people consider dwelling while on-line. In an electronic network, outlays of information are spread very fast and at a relatively wide area. She said that we have to authorize people who have the capacity to deliver their professionalism responsibly.

Second is anonymity. People enjoy the benefits of hiding their identity to further express themselves. But one must do this responsibly. Some abuse these benefits to “express themselves” in a rather “wrong” way. Racism, sexism, and other sorts of discrimination are to name a few of what people can do while hiding their own persona.

Next is reproducibility. Information that is exchanged online is not entirely safe from theft. Your work can be illegally used and reproduced by others. And people can be capable of attributing works of malice unto you.

The main problem here is the lack of respect and proper conundrum. People tend to take advantage of on-line communication in a bad way and further process them to practice atrocity. Somehow, I believe that this is a controllable problem. Strict regulations should be implemented to promote respect among netizens.

Integrative Questions:

1. Will stricter regulations on the World Wide Web be ethical? Why or why not?
2. Is there a way to cease these problems?