

Unit 4 Seminar

Title: Case Study on Privacy

- If Ricardo is not responsible for determining allowable access, should he release the names and addresses? **No – only the person responsible should do this.**
- Suppose Ricardo were responsible for determining allowable access to the files. What ethical issues would be involved in his deciding whether to grant access to Beth? **No, this is a privacy issue and would violate GDPR.**
- Should Beth be allowed to contact the individuals involved? That is, should the Records department release individuals' names to a researcher? What are the ethical issues for the Records department to consider? **No, 'computing professionals should establish transparent policies and procedures that allow individuals to understand what data is being collected and how it is being used' (ACM, 2018); when the data was collected from the individuals, if they were not informed that their data could be used by third parties such as Beth's, this should not be passed on to Beth.**
- Suppose Beth contacts the individuals to ask their permission, and one-third of them respond giving permission, one-third respond denying permission, and one-third do not respond. Beth claims that at least one-half of the individuals are needed to make a valid study. What options are available to Beth?
 - **Dawson (2015) recommends being flexible and considering information sources from alternative interviewees.**
 - **She could also re-attempt to get a response from the one-third of people who did not reply; supplying a reply-paid envelope with a request could prompt a response, as the individual might feel they are wasting the interviewers time if they do not reply (Dawson, 2015).**

References

ACM. (2018) ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Available at: <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> (Accessed: 04 August 2025).

Dawson, C. (2015) *Projects in Computing and Information Systems: A Student's Guide*. Third edition. Harlow: Pearson Education, Limited.