Lesson 10: Legal & Policy Issues

Definitions - from Dictionary.com

A **law** is “any written or positive rule or collection of rules prescribed under the authority of the state or nation.”

**Ethical** means “being in accordance with the rules or standards for right conduct or practice, especially the standards of a profession.”

A **policy** is a specified “course of action adopted for the sake of expediency, facility, etc.”

**Intellectual property (IP)** “refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.” – *World Intellectual Property Organization*

**Copyleft**...is “a strategy of utilizing copyright law to pursue the policy goal of fostering and encouraging the equal and inalienable right to copy, share, modify and improve creative works of authorship.”

**Issue: Attribution stacking**

Occurs when data sets with attribution (or other) requirements are combined.

*Example 1:* Works with SA licenses may allow or prohibit commercial uses. The derivative’s license cannot satisfy both requirements at the same time.

*Example 2:* CC-BY-SA requires all derivatives to be shared under the same CC-BY-SA license. More restrictions cannot be added nor can derivatives be made fully open.

**Who might claim ownership?**

- You
- Funder
- Scientist/PI/Student
- Institution
- Private company
- Nobody

**Copyrights, licenses, & waivers**

**Copyright** is “the body of exclusive rights granted by law to copyright owners for protection of their work.” – *US Copyright Office*

A **license** states what can be done with the data and how that data can be redistributed.

A **waiver** relinquishes all rights of ownership and usually commits the work to the public domain.

**Laws vary depending on the country or region!**

**Creative Commons licenses and waivers**

CC0: actually a waiver, not a license
CC-BY: attribution
CC-BY-ND: attribution, no derivatives
CC-BY-NC: attribution, non-commercial
CC-BY-SA: attribution, share alike

**Local contact information**

**Privacy**

Protects access to the individuals or entities

**Confidentiality**

Protects access to info about the individuals

**Rules on privacy, confidentiality, & security**

These rules impact what data we can collect and how; how we share data, results, and outcomes; how we reuse human subject data; and how we store and dispose of data.