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Indicative Abstract

Schmidt, David P. *Knowledge Management for the Information Professional*. Edited by T. Kanti Srikantaiah, & Michael E.D. Koenig. Medford, New Jersey: Information Today, Inc., 2000.

Knowledge managers currently face fundamental issues in discerning what is happening in rapidly changing, challenging, and complex situations. Ethics for Knowledge Management encourages the use of ethics as a discernment in the business realm rather than normative theories which force knowledge managers to adhere to traditional rules of ethics that are less suitable for the ever-changing field of computer technology. The article then analyzes and exposes the concerns of applying such traditional theories to metaphors without discernment. This leads to misinterpretation and colliding opinions due to opposing theories if knowledge managers are not aware of ways commonly used metaphors shape personal values and ethics. The next stage proposes the need for knowledge managers to develop robust vocabularies for the profession, as well as be critical of implications of the vocabulary and metaphors that are already being used. This allows for understanding and awareness of the different categories of metaphors, their interpretations based upon commonly recognized theories of ethics, and the ethical impact of ones used for decision making with or without discernment. This information is also likely to serve as an updated foundation on ethics management for information and knowledge professionals.