

a comprehensive definition of
ethical data collection

written by manuel quiambao and judhell ramirez
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data collection (np.)

(1.) “*a process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest*”_{[[1]]}; that is, *a process of collecting_{2} data_{3}*. (2.) *with variables of interest_{4}, an act that deconstructs humans into data_{3} that can be collected_{2}.* [a.] *a tool of technofeudalism_{5}*.

collect (v.)

(1.) to gather separate things into one place; that is, to centralize and homogenize all manner of things under one entity. [a.] to gather and select with meticulousity, intent, and interest; as in, to sift, to search in a refined and targeted way. (2.) to gain control of a thing; that is, to hold within your grasp (biological or technological) and claim as yours; as in, to collect one's thoughts.

data (n.)

(1.) information that can be used and processed to synthesize new information; that is, if it can be considered useful. [a.] information that can be processed easily by a digital device; that is, compressible, quantitative, reductive; in other words, commodity. (2.) output by a device that can be processed to find meaning; that is, a (mere) reflection of reality; a (usable) two-dimensional projection. [a.] output by a digital device made to be processed for human meaning; in other words, content.

- [[1]]: Alba, D. (2024, April 2). *Google agrees to delete “incognito” browsing data to settle class-action lawsuit*. Time. <https://time.com/6962521/google-incognito-lawsuit-data-settlement>
- [[2]]: Strycharz, J., & Segijn, C. M. (2024, February). *Ethical side-effect of dataveillance in advertising: Impact of data collection, trust, privacy concerns and regulatory differences on chilling effects - sciencedirect*. ScienceDirect. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0148296323008494>
- [[3]] *Data brokers – epic – electronic privacy information center*. Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC). (n.d.). <https://epic.org/issues/consumer-privacy/data-brokers/>
- [[4]] Crawford, K., & Joler, V. (2018). *Anatomy of an AI system*. Anatomy of an AI System. <https://anatomyof.ai/>

variables of interest (phr.)

(1.) *variables relating to private information, gotten through uninformed consent; i.e. Google Incognito_{[[1]]}*. (2.) *variables relating to selfish (monetary) gain and marketing; i.e. dataveillance affecting chilling effects in consumers_{[[2]]}*. (3.) *variables that transform humans into data_{3.1a}; i.e. data brokers_{[[3]]}*. (4.) *variables that perpetrate the power of the collector_{2.2} of data; i.e extractivism by AI industry_{[[4]]}*.

technofeudalism (n.)

(1.) a power structure born from late capitalism and an ethereal mutation of capital (cloud capital) where workers are returned to unpaid ‘serfs’ further contributing to the wealth of owners, now becoming ‘vassals’^{[[1]]}; in other words, regarding data collection_{1}, a power structure that exploits and reduces humans to data_{3} and further gives power to those who collect_{2} it. (2.) a symptom within our contemporary reality.

ethical data collection (np.)

(1.) collecting {8} data under an ethical practice. (2.) with tenets of ethics {7} alongside variables of interest {10}, an act that acknowledges the human {11} component of data {9}.

ethical (adj.)

(1.) pertaining to values of goodness and morality; especially, equity and equality. (2.) pertaining to human judgment; that is, pertaining to being human and respecting all humans as fellows. (3.) pertaining to adherence to the principles of “norms of conduct”; in other words, an ideological empathic limitation concerning the non-monetary value of human life.

related words: honesty, integrity, transparency, responsibility, accessibility

collect (v.)

*(1.) to gather separate things into one place; **that is, to unite people.** [a.] to gather and select with meticulous, intent, and interest; **as in, to recognize those collected with good faith.** (2.) to gain control of a thing; **that is, to understand and appreciate something more;** as in, to collect one's thoughts.*

data (n.)

(1.) *information that can be used and processed to synthesize new information; that is, abstract and malleable yet comprehensible.* [a.] *information that can be processed easily by a digital device; that is, flexible, expansive, and enabling; in other words, prosthesis.* (2.) *output by a device that can be processed to find meaning; that is, a (subjective) reflection of reality; an (introspective) two-dimensional projection.* [a.] *output by a digital device made to be processed for human meaning; in other words, bases for inference.*

- [[1]]: Raymond, E. S. (2001, January). Cathedral and the Bazaar. https://monoskop.org/images/e/e0/Raymond_Eric_S_The_Cathedral_and_the_Bazaar_rev_ed.pdf
[[2]]: Open-government. Civic Tech Toronto. (n.d.). <https://civictech.ca/tags/topic/open-government>
[[3]] Mattern, S. C. (2021). *A city is not a computer: Other urban intelligences*. Princeton University Press.
[[4]]: Walde, P. (n.d.). *Requiem for a glacier: Score*. Paul Walde. <https://paulwalde.com/artworks/requiem-for-a-glacier/score>

variables of interest (phr.)

(1.) *variables relating to the democratization of content to users; i.e. Linux and open-source coding_{[[1]]}, open-government program by CivicTech_{[[2]]}.* (2.) *variables that allow connections between data to form, allowing better understanding of the world; i.e. city-as-organism models connecting city system to organ systems_{[[3]]}, Requiem for a Glacier connecting glacial melt to musical phrases_{[[4]]}.*

human (adj.)

(1.) relating to the characteristics of humans; that is, the human condition. (2.) optimistically, relating to the capacity to understand and exercise values of equity, equality, and empathy; that is, the capacity to feel. (3.) relating to not just the recognition that humans are not flawless but also the willingness to transcend those flaws. (4.) a contemporary ideal (but a good ideal nonetheless).