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Unit 5
Ethics in Using Information
Introduction
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Aim and Learning Outcomes

**Aim**
To explore the range of ethical issues which you should know about when gathering and using information

**Learning Outcomes**
On completion of this unit you will be able to:

- Describe Intellectual Property and how it is protected
- Summarise what Freedom of Information is
- Outline what Data Protection is
- Explain what plagiarism is and how to avoid it
Overview

Important area:
governed by legislation, policies, national and international agreements

Complex area:
if in doubt seek legal advice

Disclaimer:
The content of this presentation is an informal general description of the subject matter and does not purport to be an authoritative or definitive interpretation of the law or policies that apply.
What is information?

It’s a commodity and as a researcher you need to be aware of the ethical issues surrounding it.

You are expected to use information in a fair and responsible way.

There is legislation in place governing the creation, collection, use and distribution of information with which you will need to comply.

If your research involves individual people as subjects, you will be required to seek approval and follow the guidelines set out by the appropriate research ethics committee in the university.
In this Unit we will look at four areas:

1. **Intellectual Property**: who owns information; what does the legislation do to protect you as the creator; what are the rules you must follow when using works that come under copyright

2. **Freedom of information**: what your rights are if you wish to access records held by public bodies
3. **Data protection**: if you are processing personal data about living individuals, what the law is and whether this affects your research

4. **Citation and Plagiarism**: what steps you need to take to avoid being accused of plagiarism