

integrity of the research. Thus, the second privacy issue presented by behavioral research, as it is with all inroads on the private personality, is the issue of confidentiality.

One of the most important ways in which the concept of confidentiality in behavioral research can be served is to seek to design the research so that the responses of the persons providing the data can be anonymous; the design should avoid identifying any individual respondent with a particular response. While this should be possible in all opinion surveys, in many instances the nature of the research will require an ability to identify each respondent with the data elicited from him. This would of course be true in longitudinal studies—as of child growth and development—where respondents must be examined or interviewed a number of times, or in studies of several diverse sets of records which must be matched up to a particular individual.

If full anonymity is not possible in the research design,⁵⁷ then there are several other safeguards which should be stressed to provide some degree of anonymity or confidentiality. The first, needing no more than a passing mention, is the integrity of the behavioral research scientist, which, along with his interest in science, must be assumed as a basic prerequisite. The integrity of the professional scientist will assure both his informants and society at large that he will be responsible and will maintain the confidence of any information given to him by identifiable informants. That there are occasional breaches of professional confidence at this level underscores the significance of putting stress on the responsibility of the investigator both during his professional training and throughout his research career.

Another important safeguard for confidentiality can be provided through control techniques. For example, the identity of the respondent may be coded

57. It should be borne in mind that there are various degrees of anonymity in the gathering of research data, and it may be useful to distinguish between them in balancing the values of particular research with the costs in privacy that may be involved. Dr. Isidor Chein, Professor of Psychology at New York University's Graduate School of Arts and Science, in a letter to the authors making this point, identified, among the possible levels of anonymity, the following six:

(a) the particular subject is never identifiable, not even by the investigator or his agents; (b) the particular subject is temporarily identifiable, but his identity is never ascertained up to and including the point at which the data that he has provided are consolidated in some meaningful and interpretable form; (c) the particular subject is temporarily identifiable and his identity is known up to, but not including, the point at which the data that he has provided are consolidated in some meaningful and interpretable form; (d) the particular subject is temporarily identifiable and can be associated with data that are in themselves meaningful and interpretable, but his identity is not ascertained; (e) the identity of the particular subject is known in conjunction with meaningful and interpretable data, but his identifiability and identity are submerged in the treatment of the data from many subjects and his own data are never scrutinized from the point of view of interpreting or drawing any inferences about him or his behavior; and (f) the identity of the particular subject is known in conjunction with meaningful and interpretable data and these data are scrutinized from the point of view of interpreting some aspect of the individual or his behavior, but his identity is thereafter submerged in the collection of similar processes of interpretation for many subjects.