

Public or secret nature of state information

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Management of secret data represents a special question of control; because a state imposes on itself restrictions concerned more with the distribution of information than its production. Since a state must observe human rights and civil liberties, it must cope with certain obstacles and obligations. For this reason, it provides the most diverse procedures, makes a categorisation of its collections and restricts their use. Digital revolution in the information society has triggered many questions, arising from the state's power to accumulate and control information.

The questions that are the focus of attention are the following: who in general is entitled to produce secret data, why, and to what extent with regard to the nature of confidentiality; what degree of discretion is allowed in attainability of data; whom are secret data supposed to serve; what about the transparency of the state; what people are appropriate to manage secret data; how to prevent state information from becoming secret and thus to prevent the domination and manipulation of people and groups; how to regulate the de-bureaucratisation of availability of data without complicated legal procedures, and last, but not least, what is the benefit of secret information in comparison with its management costs and relative to the production of secrecy.

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