

# Journal Entry 14

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The article *11 Illegal Things You Unknowingly Do on the Internet* is a quick rundown on illegal activities that are carried out online with or without intention. Of the activities listed in the article, the five most serious of these, to me and in no particular order, are as follows:

1. Sharing passwords, addresses, or photos of others
2. Bullying and trolling
3. Faking your identity online
4. Collecting information about people under the age of 13
5. Illegal searches on the Internet

Although I have listed these things in no specific order, I do feel that the sharing of others' personal information online is the most dangerous. This activity could lead to a number of harmful outcomes including the mass harassment of someone, revenge porn (whether real or doctored), or identity theft, all of which can and have lead to more fatal outcomes for the victim. Online bullying and trolling always tends to bring about feelings of self-harm for the victim, and in the worst case suicide due to the nigh 24/7 flooding of harassment made possible by social media. Faking your identity online can entail catfishing or identity theft, both of which are carried out for different reasons but still tend to leave the victim in financial ruin. The collection of information of anyone under the age of 18, to me, feels wrong regardless of parent or guardian consent. I cannot think of a single good reason that anyone or any entity would need data on minors for anything. The final activity, illegal searches online, I have mentioned because I think it's the first teller as to what someone's mindset may be. Although it is definitely not true that every person who searches certain red-flag terms has malicious intent, too many who have committed violent crimes have left a trail of digital breadcrumbs behind in the form of Google searches related to it.

## Citations

Slynychuk, A. (n.d.). *11 Illegal Things You Unknowingly Do on the Internet*. Clario.Co. Retrieved November 21, 2024, from <https://clario.co/blog/illegal-things-you-do-online/>