Sam Houston State University

Consent for Participation in Research
Survey of Scholarly Communications Knowledge and Interest

Why am I being asked?
You are being asked to be a participant in a survey of knowledge and interest in the publication and dissemination of scholarly research. The survey invitation has been distributed to faculty and graduate students at SHSU. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the research.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the principal investigator or Sam Houston State University. There are no direct risks or benefits to participating, and you may withdraw any time.

Why is this research being done?
This research is being conducted in order to shape the Newton Gresham Library's agenda for outreach and education in scholarly communications.

What is the purpose of this research?
Scholarly communications can be broadly defined as "a lifecycle documenting the steps involved in the creation, publication, dissemination and discovery of a piece of scholarly research" (ACRL Scholarly Communications Toolkit, http://acrl.libguides.com/scholcomm/toolkit). The Newton Gresham Library offers and seeks to expand a variety of resources and support services related to the stages of this lifecycle for faculty, graduate students, and other constituents. However, at present, the Library has a limited understanding of SHSU researchers' specific needs. This study seeks to survey stakeholders regarding their existing knowledge, experience, and interests in scholarly communications, in order to inform and shape the further development of the Library's activities to better support researchers. This research may also result in scholarly presentations and/or publications.

What procedures are involved?
If you agree to participate in this research, we would ask you to complete a short online opinion survey which takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. You may withdraw your participation at any time by quitting the survey. Approximately 3400 subjects will be invited to participate in this research.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?
Participation in this research poses no significant risks or discomforts, as it involves only an anonymous, opinion-based online survey.
**Are there benefits to taking part in the research?**
Participation in this research presents no direct benefits to the individual participant. However, it may benefit the Newton Gresham Library and the recipients of the Library’s support services.

**What about privacy and confidentiality?**
The survey will not collect personally identifying information, only some general demographics, so your responses cannot be linked specifically to you. All data will be stored on the university’s secure network and will be accessible only to the study investigators.

**What if I am injured as a result of my participation?**
In the unlikely event of injury related to this research study, you should contact your physician or the University Health Center. However, you or your third party payer, if any, will be responsible for payment of this treatment. There is no compensation and/or payment for medical treatment from Sam Houston State University for any injury you have from participating in this research, except as may by required of the University by law. If you feel you have been injured, you may contact the researcher, Erin Owens, at 936-294-4567.

**Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?**
You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time, without consequences of any kind, by simply exiting the survey without completing it. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances warrant, but no specific circumstances are anticipated which would warrant such removal.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**
The researcher conducting this study is Erin Owens. If you have any questions, you may contact the researcher at: 936-294-4567 or owens@shsu.edu, or by mail at: Erin Owens, Sam Houston State University, SHSU Box 2179, Huntsville TX 77341

**What are my rights as a research subject?**
If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may call the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs – Sharla Miles at 936-294-4875 or e-mail ORSP at sharla_miles@shsu.edu.

You may choose not to participate or to stop your participation in this research at any time. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University. You will not be offered or receive any special consideration if you participate in this research.

**Agreement to Participate**
I have read (or someone has read to me) and I understand the above information. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. **My choice to proceed to and complete the online survey constitutes my willing consent to participate in this research.**

I understand that if I should have any questions about my rights as a research subject, I can contact the researchers with the information provided below. I have received a copy of this consent form.
Consent Form

Principal Investigator:
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Version 1.0, 14-Aug-2018