



Sam Houston State University

Consent for Participation in Research

Digital History in Undergraduate Research

Why am I being asked?

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study about how History instructors and librarians view the use of digital history projects in undergraduate research. The survey invitation has been widely distributed amongst individuals who may teach undergraduate History courses or work in libraries. 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 document opinions concerning digital history; inform research consultations and information literacy instruction; and contribute to the knowledgebase of librarians working with History students and instructors.

What is the purpose of this research?

The investigator wishes to answer the question, *How do History instructors and librarians classify and perceive digital history projects as sources for undergraduate student research?* “Digital history” projects which present new ways to visualize and interact with historic data are becoming more and more prevalent, with centers for digital history now existing at multiple U.S. universities. However, History instructors and librarians may have differing opinions on the inherent value of these tools, on whether they can be used as sources in undergraduate classroom assignments, and on whether they should be classified as primary, secondary, or tertiary sources.

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 5-10 minutes to complete. Approximately 500-600 subjects may be involved in this research nationwide.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?

Participation in this research poses no significant risks or discomforts.

Are there benefits to taking part in the research?

Participation in this research presents no direct benefits to the individual participant. However, it will benefit the field of History Bibliography.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

The survey will not collect any personally identifying information, only some general demographics, so your responses cannot be linked specifically to you. All data will be stored in a password-protected file on the primary investigator's hard drive. All individual responses to the survey will be destroyed after data analysis is complete, but no later than July 31, 2014.

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 be required of the University by law. If you feel you have been injured, you may contact the researcher, Erin Cassidy, 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 Cassidy. If you have any questions, you may contact the researcher at: 936-294-4567 or ecassidy@shsu.edu, or by mail at: Erin Cassidy, 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 Erin Cassidy at 936-294-4567 or by email at ecassidy@shsu.edu. I have received a copy of this consent form.