



Sam Houston State University

Consent for Participation in Research

Technical Services Librarian Trends

Why am I being asked?

You are being asked to be a participant in a research study about technical services librarians in your library. The survey invitation has been distributed amongst individuals who may be involved with, 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 gather data on technical services librarian employment trends and document opinions regarding preparedness of entry-level technical services librarians; inform library professionals of emerging trends affecting libraries and technical services departments; and contribute to the awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing technical services librarians and library administrators.

What is the purpose of this research?

The investigators wish to answer these questions: (1) “*What are the employment trends facing future and current technical services librarians?*”, and (2) “*How prepared are entry-level technical services librarians?*”. Technical Services librarians are typically required to obtain a Masters of Library/Information Science degree. However, with an ever-evolving technical services landscape, the courses and instruction provided through the degree curriculum may not best equip graduates with the skills and knowledge required in their first professional position. Furthermore, while employment trends regarding libraries as a whole is continually documented, the subset of technical services librarians presents a unique opportunity to study the employment outlook within an evolving environment where budget cuts and position consolidation may becoming increasingly prevalent.

What procedures are involved?

If you agree to participate in this research, we would ask you to complete a short online survey which takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Approximately 200-500 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 every individual participant. At the end of the survey, participants may choose to be entered into a prize drawing for a chance to win 1 of (2)

\$30 Amazon gift cards. Two individual participants who complete the survey will be chosen at random to win the gift card. Additionally, information collected from the survey will benefit current and future librarians, and library administrators.

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 collected from the survey will be stored securely. All email addresses from individuals who choose to be entered in the prize drawing will be kept in a separate file from survey responses, and that file of email addresses will be destroyed after the two individual winners are notified.

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 primary investigator, Kat Landry, at 936-294-1625.

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 researchers conducting this study are Kat Landry, Molly Thompson, and Zach Valdes. If you have any questions, you may contact the primary investigator Kat Landry at: 936-294-1625 or klandry@shsu.edu, or by mail at: Kat Landry, 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 Kat Landry at 936-294-1625 or by email at klandry@shsu.edu. I have received a copy of this consent form.