

Participant Consent Letter

Research Project Title: Open Source Evaluation.

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Research Advisor: Dr. Harlene Anderson, Houston Galveston Institute harleneanderson@earthlink.net

This consent form should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully.

The purpose of this research is to examine how an existing collaborative group can utilize new internet based tools to augment their community participation and collaboratively conduct and write an evaluation of their work. The inquiry question is simple; can a group conduct and write an evaluation of their own work that possesses rigor and relevance for both the involved community and other communities doing similar work?

Your participation will primarily consist of participating in an online community that includes common features such as blogs, forums, comments, etc., and may include participating in writing portions of the evaluation report utilizing a wiki site. In addition, to provide more qualitative data about the project you may be asked for an interview. This would be scheduled in advance and your agreement to participate is completely optional. While the site will likely continue beyond this research project, data collection for the purpose of this dissertation project will end by March of 2010.

All identifying information will be removed from the study's final report. You will also be given a summary report of the study's findings, for your feedback, prior to any details being used in professional articles or conference presentations. Please note that you should feel free to withdraw your participation at any point in this process (i.e., prior to/during the whole research project, and prior to/during the final check-back). Should you withdraw, you can request that any outcomes from your participation be excluded from the study, provided you make this request this within one month of your withdrawal to Stephen Shimshock at 206-216-4178 or sshimshock@casey.org.

Your signature on this form, or your submission of the acceptance email, indicates that you have understood to your satisfaction the information regarding participation in the research project and agree to participate as a subject. In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. Your continued participation should be as informed as your initial consent, so you should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation. If you have further questions concerning matters related to this research, please contact: Stephen Shimshock of Casey Family Programs and PhD-student at Taos-Tilburg University at 206-216-4178 or sshimshock@casey.org. You may also contact Stephen's research supervisor, Dr. Harlene Anderson, at harleneanderson@earthlink.net should you have further questions.

Please print a copy of this consent form to keep for your records and reference.

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