



GVSU Libraries Website Usability Study

Consent to Participate in the Usability Study

You are being asked to participate in a study that will be conducted by the Technology and Information Services division of the University Libraries, Grand Valley State University. The members include: Matthew Reidsma, Mary Morgan, Carlos Rodriguez, and Patrick Roth. The purpose of this research is to identify problems in the University Libraries' website design and organization that might interfere with our users' research tasks. The University Libraries will use the results of this usability test to improve the user-interface of the Library website.

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to complete a talk aloud usability test. This is the most common form of usability testing. You will complete a series of tasks on the University Libraries' website while thinking out loud about what you are doing. You will be seated at a computer with a test facilitator. The session will be recorded using software that will record your interaction with the website (e.g. keystrokes and mouse movements) as well as what you and the test facilitator say. The test will take about 30 minutes.

All information that you are providing will be held in confidence and you will not be identified in any way in the final report. There will be no way to link your name on this consent form with any of the other information gathered during your participation in this study. All data will be held securely for a maximum of one year in the Technology & Systems Office of the GVSU Libraries. After 1 year, all data collected and stored will be destroyed.

A group of staff and faculty of the University Libraries will be monitoring the tests and taking notes from a remote observation room. The observers/note takers will not have any information about individual participants. The researchers will be the only persons with access to the recorded sessions. Certain comments may be quoted or paraphrased in usability reports or in published research articles, but no identifying information will be given beyond selected demographic characteristics.

You can withdraw from this study at any time for any reason without explanation and any collected data will be withdrawn and not included in the study.

As a thank-you for participating in this study, you will be given a GVSU t-shirt. The t-shirt will be awarded even if you withdraw from the study.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study please contact:

Matthew Reidsma
Web Services Librarian
Grand Valley State University Libraries
Phone: 616-331-3577
Email: reidsmam@gvsu.edu

Your signature below indicates that you have read this page and agree to participate in the study.

Signature of Participant

Date

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Research Protections Office at Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI Phone: 616-331-3197, e-mail: HRRC@GVSU.EDU