

**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill  
Consent to Participate in a Research Study  
Adult Participants  
Social Behavioral Form**

---

**IRB Study #** 06-0044  
**Consent Form Version Date:** 9-Mar-2005

**Title of Study:** Strategies for information integration using annotation evidence

**Principal Investigator:** W. John MacMullen  
**UNC-Chapel Hill Department:** School of Information and Library Science  
**UNC-Chapel Hill Phone number:** 919-962-8366  
**Email Address:** John\_MacMullen@unc.edu  
**Faculty Advisor:** Gary J. Marchionini  
**Funding Source:** Microsoft Research; National Library of Medicine

**Study Contact telephone number:** 919-491-1182

---

**What are some general things you should know about research studies?**

You are being asked to take part in a research study. To join the study is voluntary. You may refuse to join, or you may withdraw your consent to be in the study, for any reason, without penalty.

Research studies are designed to obtain new knowledge. This new information may help people in the future. You may not receive any direct benefit from being in the research study. There also may be risks to being in research studies.

Details about this study are discussed below. It is important that you understand this information so that you can make an informed choice about being in this research study. You will be given a copy of this consent form. You should ask the researchers named above, or staff members who may assist them, any questions you have about this study at any time.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this research study is to learn about annotations in biological databases. We are interested in how annotations are made, how they are used, and their features. We are also studying the validity of specific measures of annotation quality, such as consistency, reliability, accuracy, and completeness.

You are being asked to be in the study because as a biological database curator, your expertise is valuable in helping us understand the creation and maintenance of annotations in databases.

**How many people will take part in this study?**

If you decide to participate, you will be one of approximately 15 people in the study.

### **How long will your part in this study last?**

Your participation in this study will take approximately 6-8 hours, but may be distributed over multiple days at your convenience.

### **What will happen if you take part in the study?**

We are using multiple research methods to understand annotation practices in biological databases. Specifically, we will be:

- ~~Asking you how you do your work. We will ask you to describe in detail what your normal work tasks consist of, and how you complete them, including what knowledge and skills are required. This discussion will be audio recorded to ensure accurate transcription.~~
- ~~Observing you as you do your work. By observing how you complete actual work tasks in a natural setting, we may learn more about the annotation process than by discussion alone.~~
- ~~Asking you to "think aloud" while doing your work. This means that at certain times during the observation, we will ask you to describe what you are thinking and doing as you perform a particular work task. This process will include audio recordings of your spoken thoughts to ensure we have described them accurately.~~
- ~~Viewing artifacts related to your work. Looking at artifacts such as documents, notes, and computer screens you create and use in your work will help us understand what you do.~~
- ~~Asking you to perform typical work tasks with specific documents. For the purposes of evaluating different measures of annotation quality, we will ask you to perform your normal annotation-related tasks using predefined documents to allow for comparisons with other participants. You will be assigned articles at random to annotate. Afterward, you will also collaborate with other curators who have made annotations to the same documents, in order to arrive at a consensus annotation. Your annotations will also be compared to other curators' consensus annotations to see if there are differences.~~
- ~~Asking you to participate in a group discussion ('focus group'). The group will be asked to discuss general questions about annotation in biological databases, and the quality measures being studied. No questions will be directed to you individually, but instead will be posed to the group. You may choose to respond or not respond at any point during the discussion. The focus group discussion will be audio recorded to ensure accurate transcription. Participants will not be identified by their real names in transcripts.~~

### **What are the possible benefits from being in this study?**

Research is designed to benefit society by gaining new knowledge. You may also expect to benefit by participating in this study by learning more about annotation practices from the research findings and the other curators. This may help you in your future work.

### **What are the possible risks or discomforts involved from being in this study?**

There are no anticipated risks to you as a participant of this study. There may be uncommon or previously unknown risks. You should report any problems to the researcher.

### **How will your privacy be protected?**

You will not be identified by name in any report or publication about this study, but the name of the database may be acknowledged in publications. Although every effort will be made to keep research records private, there may be times when federal or state law requires the disclosure of such records, including personal information. This is very unlikely, but if disclosure is ever

required, UNC-Chapel Hill will take steps allowable by law to protect the privacy of personal information. In some cases, your information in this research study could be reviewed by representatives of the University, research sponsors, or government agencies for purposes such as quality control or safety.

~~Your participation will be audio recorded in certain cases as described above. Recordings are used to create transcripts to ensure accurate descriptions of your participation. Your real name will not be used in transcripts. The recordings and the files that link your real name to the anonymous identifier used in the transcripts will be stored securely. Only the researcher and faculty advisor will have access to these materials. The original recordings and the file linking your name to the anonymous identifier will be destroyed after the conclusion of the study.~~

**Will you receive anything for being in this study?**

You will not receive anything for taking part in this study.

**Will it cost you anything to be in this study?**

There will be no costs for being in the study other than your participation time.

**What if you have questions about this study?**

You have the right to ask, and have answered, any questions you have about this research. If you have questions or concerns, you should contact the researcher listed on the first page of this form.

**What if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?**

All research on human volunteers is reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject you may contact, anonymously if you wish, the Institutional Review Board at 919-966-3113 or by email to IRB\_subjects@unc.edu.

-----  
**Participant's Agreement:**

I have read the information provided above. I have asked all the questions I have at this time. I voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Research Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Research Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent