

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CONSENT FORM
Institute of Museum and Library Services & University of Washington Information School
The Impact of Free Access to Computers and the Internet in Public Libraries Library
Administrators/Board of Directors/Trustees/Friends of the Library Interview

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** Please note that we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of information sent via e-mail*

Investigators' statement

We are asking you to be in a research study being conducted by the University of Washington's Information School and sponsored by the US government's Institute for Museum and Library Services. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether or not to be in the study. Please read the form carefully. You may ask questions about the purpose of the research, what we would ask you to do, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When all your questions have been answered, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called 'informed consent.'

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

We want to better understand how people use free access to computers and the Internet in their public libraries for improving their educational, English literacy, and information technology job skills. We would like to interview Library users and Library staff, and local agency staff about their experiences working with people who use the Library's public access computing services

PROCEDURES

If you choose to be in this study, I would like to interview you about your experiences with library patrons using public access computing. The interview will last about 30 minutes and will focus on the different services that you have helped people try. For example, I will ask you "What types of computer and Internet services do people use at the Library?" "What skills have they learned?" "How have people benefited from using free computer and Internet access at the Library?" and "How do you think free computer and Internet access could be improved? You do not have to answer every question.

During the interview, you may refuse to answer any question. The interview will be audio recorded and transcribed. The audio recording of your voice will be destroyed within 6 weeks of being recorded. Only members of the research team listed above will have access to this potentially sensitive information.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Some people feel that providing information for research is an invasion of privacy. I have addressed concerns for your privacy in the section below.

