

Virtual Reality in Washington State Libraries

ADULT PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

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RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT

We are asking you to be in a research study. The purpose of this consent form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide if you should be in the study or not. 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 we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called "informed consent." We will give you a copy of this form for your records.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to explore informal learning and community engagement in public libraries when patrons, like you, are using virtual reality technology. Virtual Reality is a multisensory, multimedia technology that involves audio-video images and sounds. Users wear a headset with goggles and headphones connected to a computer. The headset creates an illusion of being immersed in the recorded, animated, and computer generated spaces represented in the virtual reality games and experiences. The virtual reality content available in the library is all geared towards young people and adults and focused on educational content like learning about outer space, exploring historical time periods, and touring The White House. We will be asking questions about your VR experience in the library and what you have learned.

STUDY PROCEDURES

The library is hosting VR programming over the next several months, between January 2018-June 2018, which you are free to try out anytime so long as you fill out the library legal waiver. If you agree to participate in this research study, your VR experience may be photographed and/or video recorded and our research team may take observational notes about your experience using VR. Our research team may take observational notes of your VR play experience. Any video or images will only be used for research purposes, such as in a conference presentation or report on learning using VR in libraries.

If you agree to participate in this research study, we will ask you questions about your VR experience. There is a short survey which should take no more than 10 minutes and will be anonymous. The survey will be available anytime the VR station is set up in the library.

If you are willing to be interviewed to talk more about their VR experience, we will ask for your contact information in a separate form to maintain anonymity of the survey responses. Including an email address or phone number at the end of the survey is not a commitment to be interviewed.

You can decline to participate in this study and still try out the VR programming in your local library. There are no requirements for you to participate in this study and there is no impact on your use of library resources, including VR, by declining to participate in this study.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Some study participants may feel self-conscious being observed by a member of the research team while experiencing VR. Some study participants may also be embarrassed by questions about their gaming experience and learning outcomes using VR or other digital media.

ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY

If you choose not to participate in this study, you will still have to fill out the public library legal waiver in order to participate in the VR programming. You can use the library VR so long as you fill out the library's legal waiver.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY

You will not benefit directly from participation in this study, but **we hope that your involvement will contribute to a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of using virtual reality for informal learning and community engagement in public libraries.**

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESEARCH INFORMATION

All of the data collected will be maintained in a confidential manner. The research findings may be published, presented publicly, or used to guide future research. However, your name will not be published or shared publicly. Images will only be used for academic purposes, such as in academic conference presentations or in academic papers or reports. Images will not be used for any commercial purpose. Notes from the research sessions and accompanying data will be stored in locked filing cabinets and on password protected computers, and may be kept indefinitely.

Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, the data collected about your child may be examined.

OTHER INFORMATION

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Printed name of study staff obtaining consent

Signature

Date

Participant statement

This study has been explained to me. I volunteer to take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask questions. If I have questions later about the research, or if I feel that I have been harmed by participating in this study, I can contact the researcher listed on the first page of this consent form. If I have questions about my child's rights as a research subject, I can call the Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098. I will receive a copy of this consent form.

Printed name of participant

Signature of participant

Date

Copies to: Researcher
 Participant