Research Project: Redefining the Role of High School Librarians in Maker Education

Assignment 4

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EDTC 809

New Jersey City University

Fall 2015

**Project Proposal**

**Description of Study:**

The purpose of this study is to determine the current role of high school librarians in terms of Maker education in the public sector. The researcher is also interested in investigating the types of classes and workshops that high school students are receiving in their Makerspaces. Furthermore, the researcher will be exploring to what degree a school librarian’s prior training affects the implementation of a Makerspace. The study will also determine the impact, if any, of volunteers and/or community members involved in Makerspaces in public high school libraries.

The first phase of the study will be to identify a cross section of librarians working in public high schools across the state of New Jersey that are currently implementing a Makerspace to one degree or another. Once the participants have been identified, a study will be conducted to determine the level of training and expertise held by the school librarian. An investigation will also be conducted to determine whether or not the effective implementation of a Makerspace is dependent upon the librarian’s prior training.

As a result of this study, the researcher will gain greater insights on how to successfully implement Makerspaces in public high school libraries throughout the state of New Jersey. The information gathered from this study will be published in journals for educational purposes.

**Need of the Study:**

A review of the literature indicates that training for Maker education is a current challenge for school librarians. Pre-service librarians are graduating from colleges and universities without having the necessary skills to implement and maintain Makerspaces. In-service librarians, on the other hand, are limited to online training resources on Maker education and support from their colleagues (Moorefield-Lang, H., 2015).

As the maker movement continues to gain momentum, high school students are being exposed to Maker education in libraries across the state. Along with the sense of excitement that arises from the movement, there is also an existing need to train and prepare librarians with the necessary skills set and resources to meet the growing demand of Maker education.

**Method:**

A qualitative approach will be taken to conduct the research proposed in this study. Multiple forms of data will be gathered such as public documents, newspaper articles and E-mail internet interviews. A qualitative approach is being used since the participants cannot be directly observed. It will also allow the researcher to control the line of questioning (Creswell, p. 191).

**Research Questions:**

1. How are high school librarians exposing young adults to Maker education in the public sector?
2. To what degree does a librarian’s prior training impact the implementation of a Makerspace?
3. What is the impact of volunteers/community members and/or mentors on Makerspaces in public high schools?

**Participants:**

The participants in this study are all high school librarians with an existing Makerspace in their school library. The aim of the researcher is to have an equal representation of male and female participants. The socioeconomic status of the school community will also be taken into consideration in order to ensure an equal representation between the counties.

**Selection Process:**

The researcher will purposefully select the participants based on the gender of the librarian and the socioeconomic status of the individual communities within the counties. The individuals will represent a cross section of high school librarians working in public schools from across the state of New Jersey with representation from the 21 counties. Two participants will be selected from each county with a total number of 42 participants.

Before the final selection process has been made the participants will be contacted via email to confirm that they have an existing Makerspace. At that point in time, it will also be determined whether or not the librarian would be willing to participate in the study. Once confirmation has been established, an email will be sent to the participant along with the details of the study, a consent form and a link to a Qualtics survey.

**Potential Issues:**

The potential issues that may arise with this study could include a low response rate. Furthermore, since the interview will be conducted via email, the researcher may not be able to observe first hand if the information that is being reported is accurate

**Survey Instrument:**

Participants will be completing a Qualtrics survey via email. The survey questions used in the study will be open-ended and limited to the implementation of the Makerspace within the confines of the library; the librarian training; the role of volunteers; the staffing models and the overall reactions of the Makerspace. The responses will be anonymous and all the data gathered will be confidential.

**Survey Questions:** (Select the answer that best applies)

1. How long have you had a Makerspace in your library?

Less than 6 months \_\_\_\_\_

More than 1 year \_\_\_\_\_

More than 2 years \_\_\_\_\_

More than 3 years \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where did you receive Makerspace training? (Check all that apply)

College/university training \_\_\_\_\_

Online videos/Tutorials \_\_\_\_\_

My colleagues have offered assistance \_\_\_\_\_

Hands-on workshops \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How would you describe your level of expertise in terms of implementing a Makerspace? (Select the answer that best applies)

Expert \_\_\_\_\_

Very Familiar \_\_\_\_\_

Somewhat Familiar \_\_\_\_\_

Novice \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the types of activities or classes offered as part of the Makerspace in your library. (Check all that apply)

Coding \_\_\_\_\_

Robotics \_\_\_\_\_

3D Printing \_\_\_\_\_

DIY (Do It Yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

Arts and Crafts \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the staffing model used to implement your Makerspace. How many librarians facilitate the Makerspace? (Check the answer that best applies)

0

1

2

3

4

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Who else supports with the staffing of the Makerspace? (Check all that apply)

Community Members \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Consultants \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What type of training have you received on 3D printers? (Check all that apply)

None \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Training \_\_\_\_\_

Online Videos/Tutorials \_\_\_\_\_

Assistance from Colleagues \_\_\_\_\_

Hands-on workshops \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What has been the overall reaction of the students to your Makerspace? (Check the answer that best applies)

Highly Interested \_\_\_\_\_

Interested \_\_\_\_\_

Somewhat Interested \_\_\_\_\_

Not Interested \_\_\_\_

1. Describe some of the challenges that you have experienced with the implementation of the Makerspace in your library? (Explain)

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1. How are students benefiting from your Makerspace? (Explain)

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1. How is your program funded?

State Funding \_\_\_\_\_

Government Funding \_\_\_\_\_

Grants \_\_\_\_\_

Donations \_\_\_\_\_

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What type of additional support do you need to implement your Makerspace? (Please list in rank order)

Funding

Materials/Resources

Volunteers

Training

Additional Space

Other: (Please describe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

References

Creswell, J.R. (2014). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods

Approaches (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Moorefield-Lang, H. (2015). Moorefield-Lang, H.M. (2015). Change in the making:

Makerspaces and the ever-changing landscape of libraries. TechTrends, 59(3), 107-112.

Pugliese, N. (2015). The Record: In north Jersey, the libraries of tomorrow are ready to turn the

page. Retrieved from: <http://www.northjersey.com/news/in-north-jersey-libraries-of-tomorrow-are-ready-to-turn-the-page-1.1257850>

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REQUIRED FORMS

**Appendix** **B**

**Informed** **Consent** **Form**

I agree to participate in a study entitled “Redefining the Role of High School Librarians in Maker Education,”

which is being conducted by Martha Osei-Yaw, doctoral student, at New Jersey City University. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a correlation between the level of training and preparation that librarians receive and the impact that it has on the implementation of Makerspaces in public high schools. The data collected in this study will be combined with data from previous studies and will be submitted for publication in a research journal.

I understand that I will be required to respond to open-ended questions related to library training, staffing and the implementation of Makerspaces within my school. My participation in the study should not exceed 30 minutes.

I understand that my responses will be anonymous and that all the data gathered will be confidential. I agree that any information obtained from this study may be used in any way thought best for publication or education provided that I am in no way identified and my name is not used.

I understand that there are no physical or psychological risks involved in this study, and that I am free to withdraw my participation at any time without penalty.

I understand that my participation does not imply employment with the state of New Jersey, New Jersey City University, the principal investigator, or any other project facilitator.

If I have any questions or problems concerning my participation in this study I may contact Dr. Christopher Carhahan (201) 200-3078 or Dr. Beimnet Teclezghi, Chair of NJCU Institutional Review Board, at 201-200-3139 or email [bteclezghi@njcu.edu.](mailto:bteclezghi@njcu.edu)

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

\_\_Martha Osei-Yaw\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Principal Investigator

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date

11-17-15\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**NEW** **JERSEY** **CITY** **UNIVERSITY** **INSTITUTIONAL** **REVIEW** **BOARD**

**File** **#** 0017**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**APPLICATION** **FOR** **REVIEW** **OF** **RESEARCH**

1. TYPE OF APPROVAL REVIEW REQUESTED (CHECK ONE):

X FULL REVIEW EXPEDITED EXEMPT REVIEW

2. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Martha Osei-Yaw

DEPARTMENT: Educational Technology

PHONE: (201) 200-2000

TITLE OF RESEARCH: A qualitative approach will be taken to conduct the research proposed in this study. Multiple forms of data will be gathered such as public documents, newspaper articles and E-mail internet interviews.

CO-INVESTIGATORS:

3. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH (INDEPENDENT PROJECT,MASTER’S THESIS, AND COURSE WHICH INCLUDES COURSE TITLE, SEMESTER AND INSTRUCTOR’S NAME.)ETC.

The research gathered in this study will allow me to fulfill my obligations towards completing my dissertation. Course Title: EDTC 809 Assessment and Evaluation (Fall 2015).

4. IF YOU ARE A STUDENT RESEARCHER PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

TELEPHONE: EMAIL:

FACULTY SPONSOR NAME:

DEPARTMENT OF SPONSORING FACULTY:

EXT. FAX : EMAIL:

FACULTY SPONSOR SIGNATURE:

DATE:

5. HAS THIS RESEARCH PROJECT BEEN CONSIDERED PREVIOUSLY BY THE IRB? YES NO X

IF YES, GIVE LAST APPROVAL DATE:

6. SOURCE OF FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

UNIVERSITY GRANTS: PLEASE INDICATE WHICH GRANT PROGRAM: (FOUNDATION, SBR)

EXTRAMURAL FUNDS: PLEASE INDICATE AGENCY NAME:

TITLE:

AWARD NUMBER: DATE :

7. ARE YOU WORKING WITH A RESEARCHER FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION? IF SO, BE AWARE THAT YOUR CO-INVESTIGATOR MUST ALSO SUBMIT YOUR JOINT PROPOSAL TO THE IRB AT THE INSTITUTION THAT EMPLOYEES HIM/HER. ⁬ YES ⁬NO X

8. WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH?

The purpose of this study is to determine the current role of high school librarians in terms of Maker education in the public sector. The researcher is also interested in investigating the types of classes and workshops that high school students are receiving in their Makerspaces. Furthermore, the researcher will be exploring to what degree a school librarian’s prior training affects the implementation of a Makerspace. The study will also determine the impact, if any, of volunteers and/or community members involved in Makerspaces in public high school libraries.

9. DOES YOUR RESEARCH INVOLVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)?

⁬ MINORS

⁬ PRISONERS

⁬ PREGNANT WOMEN

⁬ USE OF THE INVESTIGATORS’ CURRENT STUDENTS AS SUBJECTS ⁬ DRUGS OR OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

⁬ PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PHYSIOLOGICAL STRESS ABOVE THE LEVEL OF NORMAL EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES ⁬ MISLEADING OR DECEIVING SUBJECTS ABOUT ANY ASPECT OR PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

⁬ COLLECTION OF INFORMATION WHICH DEALS WITH SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS’ BEHAVIOR (ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE, SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, ETC.)

⁬ COLLECTION OF INFORMATION WHICH WOULD PLACE SUBJECTS AT RISK OF CRIMINAL OR CIVIL LIABILITY IF IT

BECAME KNOWN

⁬ COLLECTION OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD AFFECT SUBJECTS’FINANCIAL STANDING, EMPLOYABILITY, OR REPUTATION

⁬ EXAMINATION OF EXISTING DATA, RECORDS,DOCUMENTS, OR SPECIMENS THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD

⁬ CHILDREN INVOLVED IN YOUR RESEARCH WITHOUT SENSITIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEMSELVES OR THEIR FAMILIES.

⁬ COLLECTING OR STUDYING EXISTING DATA, DOCUMENTS, RECORDS, PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS OR DIAGNOSTIC

SPECIMENS WHICH ARE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AND FROM WHICH PARTICIPANTS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE INVESTIGATOR(S).

**IF** **ANY** **OF** **THE** **ABOVE** **ITEMS** **ARECHECKED**

**YOUR** **PROPOSAL** **DOES** **NOT** **QUALIFY** **FOR** **AN** **EXEMPT** **REVIEW**

10. DESCRIBE THE DESIGN OF THE RESEARCH INCLUDING WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF SUBJECTS (ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY):

The subjects will be required to respond to open-ended questions related to library training, staffing and the implementation of Makerspaces within their school. Their participation in the study should not exceed 30 minutes.

11. UNDER WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES ARE YOU APPLYING FOR EXEMPTION?

⁬ 1. RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN ESTABLISHED OR COMMONLY ACCEPTED EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS, INVOLVING NORMAL EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES, SUCH AS (I) RESEARCH ON REGULAR AND SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES, OR (II) RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMPARISON AMONG INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES, CURRICULA, OR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT METHODS.

⁬ 2. RESEARCH INVOLVING THE USE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE OR EDUCATIONAL TESTS (COGNITIVE, DIAGNOSTIC, APTITUDE, ACHIEVEMENT),SURVEY PROCEDURES, INTERVIEW PROCEDURES, OR OBSERVATION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIOR UNLESS (I) INFORMATION IS OBTAINED IN SUCH AWAY AS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OR (II) THE PARTICIPANTS’ RESPONSES, IF THEY BECAME KNOWN, COULD PLACE THE PARTICIPANT AT RISK OF CRIMINAL OR CIVIL LIABILITY OR BE DAMAGING TO THE PARTICIPANTS’ FINANCIAL STANDING, REPUTATION, OR EMPLOYABILITY. (ALL RESEARCH

INVOLVING SURVEY AND INTERVIEW PROCEDURES IS EXEMPT WHEN THE PARTICIPANTS ARE ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS OR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIALITY MUST BE MAINTAINED WHEN REQUIRED BY FEDERAL STATUTE.)

⁬ 3. RESEARCH INVOLVING THE COLLECTION OR STUDY OF EXISTING DATA, DOCUMENTS, RECORDS, PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, OR DIAGNOSTIC SPECIMENS, IF THESE SOURCES ARE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE OR IF THE INFORMATION IS RECORDED BY THE INVESTIGATOR IN SUCH A MANNER THAT PARTICIPANTS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED.

⁬ 4. RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS WHICH ARE FUNDED BY A FEDERAL AGENCY AND DETERMINED TO BE EXEMPT BY THE AGENCY HEAD AND WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO STUDY, EVALUATE, OR OTHERWISE EXAMINE: (I) PUBLIC BENEFIT OR SERVICE PROGRAMS; (II) PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BENEFITS OR SERVICES UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS; (III) POSSIBLE CHANGES IN OR ALTERNATIVES TO THOSE PROGRAMS OR PROCEDURES; OR (IV) POSSIBLE CHANGES IN METHODS OR LEVELS OF PAYMENT FOR BENEFITS OR SERVICES UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS.

⁬ 5. EXEMPTION FOR COLLECTION OR STUDY OF EXISTING DATA: RESEARCH INVOLVING COLLECTION OR STUDY OF EXISTING DATA, DOCUMENTS, RECORDS, IF THESE DATA ARE NON-IDENTIFIABLE AND PUBLICLY AVAILABLE OR INFORMATION IS

RECORDED BY THE INVESTIGATOR IN SUCH A MANNER THAT SUBJECTS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED DIRECTLY THROUGH IDENTIFIERS LINKED TO THE SUBJECT (CODES LINKING NAMES TO DATA ARE CONSIDERED INDIRECT IDENTIFIERS).

⁬ 6. EXEMPTION FOR STUDY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY THE STATUTE, RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS WHICH ARE CONDUCTED BY OR SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO STUDY, EVALUATE, OR OTHERWISE EXAMINE:

(A) \_\_\_\_\_PROGRAMS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OR OTHER PUBLIC BENEFIT OR SERVICE PROGRAMS (B) \_\_\_\_\_PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING BENEFITS OR SERVICES UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS

(C) \_\_\_\_\_POSSIBLE CHANGES IN OR ALTERNATIVES TO THOSE PROGRAMS OR PROCEDURES

(D) \_\_\_\_\_POSSIBLE CHANGES IN METHODS OR LEVELS OF PAYMENT FOR BENEFITS OR SERVICES UNDER THOSE PROGRAMS.

**IF** **YOURRESEARCHIS** **GIVEN** **EXEMPTIONSTATUS,** **THE** **FOLLOWINGMUSTBESTATED** **ONACOVER** **LETTERACCOMPANYINGANYSURVEYORQUESTIONNAIRES.**

1. A STATEMENT THAT ALL PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

2. A STATEMENT THAT YOU ARE CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND THE REASON FOR IT (MASTER’S THESIS, PUBLICATION, ETC.) 3. PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH - WHAT YOU ARE INVESTIGATING

4. A STATEMENT THAT ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL 5. A STATEMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS NEED NOT RESPOND TO ALL QUESTIONS

6. IF PARTICIPANTS ARE YOUR OWN STUDENTS, A STATEMENT THAT CLASS STANDING WILL NOT BE AFFECTED IN ANY WAY

BASED ON PARTICIPATION

7. THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) AND FACULTY SPONSOR (IF APPLICABLE)

**CLAIMSFOREXEMPTION** **MAYNOTBEMADE** **FOR(A)RESEARCHINVOLVINGCHILDREN,** **(B)**

**AIDS-RELATEDRESEARCH,** **(C)RESEARCHINVOLVING** **SUBSTANCE** **ORCHILDABUSE** **OR(D)RESEARCH** **TOBECONDUCTEDATTHE** **V.A.** **(RESEARCHUNDERTHESE** **CATEGORIES** **IS** **SUBJECT** **TOSPECIAL** **FEDERALGUIDELINES.)**

**ALL** **IRB** **APPLICANTS** **MUST** **COMPLETEQUESTIONS** **12** **–18**

12. DESCRIBE THE SUBJECTS WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING (NUMBER, AGE,GENDER, ETC.)

42 participants will be taking part in the survey. Half of the participants will be males and the other half will be females. All of

the participants will be over the age of 18.

13. HOW WILL SUBJECTS BE RECRUITED? IF STUDENTS, WILL THEY BE SOLICITED FROM CLASS?

The researcher will purposefully select the participants based on the gender of the librarian and the socioeconomic status of the

individual communities within the counties. The individuals will represent a cross section of high school librarians working in

public schools from across the state of New Jersey with representation from the 21 counties. Two participants will be selected

from each county with a total number of 42 participants.

14. WHAT RISKS TO SUBJECTS (PHYSIOLOGICAL AND/OR PSYCHOLOGICAL)ARE INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH?

At this time, there are no known risks involved in the research.

15. IS DECEPTION INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH? IF SO, WHAT IS IT AND WHY WILL IT BE USED?

No

16. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SUBJECTS AFTER THEIR PARTICIPATION? IF DECEPTION IS USED, IT MUST BE DISCLOSED AFTER PARTICIPATION.

None

17. HOW WILL CONFIDENTIALITY BE MAINTAINED? WHO WILL KNOW THE IDENITY OF THE SUBJECTS? IF A PRE AND POST TEST DESIGN IS USED HOW WILL THE SUBJECTS BE IDENTIFIED?

The responses will be anonymous. The researcher is the only person that will know the identity of the subjects.

18. HOW WILL THE DATA BE RECORDED AND STORED? WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE DATA? WHERE WILL IT BE STORED? ALL DATA MUST BE KEPT FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS.

The data will be recorded and stored using Qualtrics software. The university will have access to the data.