

## Consent Form for Participation in Research: Interview

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**Study Title:** Evaluating GitHub as a Platform of Knowledge

**Principal Investigator:** Lisa Spiro, Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services  
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**Other Investigator(s):** Sean Smith

Participant's Name:

You may be eligible to take part in a research study. This form gives you important information about the study. It describes the purpose of the research, as well as the risks and possible benefits of participating in the study.

### **Purpose of this Study**

The purpose of the study is to understand how and why digital humanities researchers and developers use GitHub, a code repository service.

### **Procedures**

As part of this study, we will ask you approximately 15 questions about how you use GitHub, what its strengths and weaknesses are, and what criteria digital humanists should consider in evaluating a platform of knowledge. We will take detailed notes during the interview.

We will offer interview participants an option of keeping the interview notes private or making them public. Some interviewees may prefer that their comments remain confidential, which we will respect by keeping interview notes in a password protected folder, not associating their names with the file and not identifying them in research outputs. Others may wish to share their interview notes publicly, whether to get credit for their comments, support openness in research communications, or foster further research. With their permission, we will share their interview notes or sections of interview notes via GitHub or another open platform. Interviewees will have the opportunity to review interview notes before they are made public.

We expect that the interview will last approximately one hour.

### **Participant Requirements**

To participate in this study, you must be a (digital) humanities researcher or developer with a GitHub repository.

### **Risks**

The risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during a conversation with a colleague.

### **Benefits**

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There may be no personal benefit from your participation in the study but the knowledge received may be of value to humanity.

### Compensation & Costs

There will be no cost to you if you participate in this study; no compensation will be provided.

### Ending Your Participation

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to be in the study and your refusal will not influence current or future relationships with Rice University and participating sites.

### Confidentiality

By participating in the study, you understand and agree that Rice University may be required to disclose your consent form, data and other personally identifiable information as required by law, regulation, subpoena or court order.

As noted above, you have the choice of keeping your interview confidential or making your interview notes public.

If you choose to keep your interview confidential, your data and consent form will be kept separate and will be secured on a password protected hard drive. By participating, you understand and agree that the data and information gathered during this study may be used by Rice University and published and/or disclosed by Rice University to others outside of Rice University. However, your name, address, contact information and other direct personal identifiers in your consent form will not be mentioned by Rice University in any such publication or dissemination of the research data and/or results.

If you choose to make your interview notes public, you will have the opportunity to review them before they are posted to GitHub or another open repository.

### Rights

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop your participation at any point. Refusal to participate or withdrawal of your consent or discontinued participation in the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled. The Principal Investigator may at his/her discretion remove you from the study for any of a number of reasons. In such an event, you will not suffer any penalty or loss of benefits or rights which you might otherwise be entitled to.

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### Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them now. If you have questions later, desire additional information, or wish to withdraw your participation please contact the Principal Investigator by mail, phone or e-mail in accordance with the contact information listed on the first page of this consent.

If you have questions pertaining to your rights as a research participant; or to report objections to this study, you should contact Melinda Cotten, Director of Office of Research Compliance, at Rice University. Email: [cotten@rice.edu](mailto:cotten@rice.edu) or Telephone: 713-348-6200

### Voluntary Consent

By signing below, you agree that the above information has been explained to you and all your current questions have been answered. You understand that you may ask questions about any aspect of this research study during the course of the study and in the future. By signing this form, you agree to participate in this research study.

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PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

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DATE