

Digital Preservation Interviews Informed Consent

I agree to participate in the Digital POWRR study being conducted at Northern Illinois University and its partner institutions. This study is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through its National Leadership Grant award. I have been informed that the purpose of the study is to investigate challenges pertaining to the long-term preservation of digital objects at small and medium sized institutions and potential solutions for them.

I understand that if I agree to participate in this study, I will be asked in a thirty minute interview to share information regarding the type, size, format, etc. of digital objects I have and believe to be important. To aid in making the testing of potential technical solutions as realistic as possible, I may choose to provide a copy of my digital objects that I believe are examples of the types of objects that require long-term preservation. I understand that my digital objects would be transferred to a secure server on a secure network, would be used by the project's technical team to test digital preservation solutions, and at the conclusion of testing the copies of my digital objects will be destroyed.

I am aware that my participation is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time without penalty or prejudice, and that if I have any additional questions concerning this study I may contact the project director, Jaime Schumacher at 815-753-0576. If I would like more information about the project in general at any time I may visit the project website at <http://www.ulib.niu.edu/imls/imlsindex.cfm>.

I understand that if I wish further information regarding my rights as a research subject, I may contact the Office of Research Compliance at Northern Illinois University at (815) 753-8588.

I understand that the intended benefits of this study include a possible solution for preserving digital data that might otherwise be rendered useless for institutions that have limited resources.

I understand that all of data used during this experiment will be kept confidential by keeping all information in locked offices and/or on password protected computers and networks.

I understand that my consent to participate in this project does not constitute a waiver of any legal rights or redress I might have as a result of my participation, and I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this consent form.

Signature of Subject

Date