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Consent to Participate and Research Screening Form

STUDY00000827: AI Approaches to Learning Gaps

Section 1: Consent to Participate in Research

Title of research study: Investigating the Use of AI to Promote Neurodiverse-Inclusive Instructional Design

Researchers: Dawn Hathaway, Principal Investigator, and Cheryl Burris, Student Researcher

Section 2: Key Information

We're inviting you to take part in a research study. We are conducting a study to better understand how instructional designers approach the needs of neurodivergent learners and explore perspectives on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in inclusive instructional design.

Section 3: Participation Details

- **Your Role:** As a participant, you will be asked to participate in an interview and answer questions about current practices, challenges, and opportunities for supporting neurodiversity engagement through instructional design.
- **Eligibility Criteria for Participation:** To be eligible for participation, you must be an instructional designer with at least one year of experience.
- **Time Commitment:** Including introductions and administrative items, the interview is expected to last approximately 45-60 minutes.
- **How many people will participate?** It is estimated that 4-6 people will participate.
- **Risks:** Risks are limited to minimal discomfort from discussing professional experiences. There are no foreseeable physical, psychological, legal, or financial risks.
- **Benefits of Participation:** There are no direct benefits to participants.

- **Voluntary Participation:** Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.
- **Future Research:** De-identified data (all identifying information removed) may be shared with other researchers. You won't be told specific details about these future research studies.

Section 4: Confidentiality and Data Security

As part of this study, we'll collect the following identifying information for the research: your name, email address, level of education, position title, and years of experience. All data in this study will be confidential. All data will be de-identified, meaning that no personally identifying information will be collected or associated with your responses. This information is necessary and will be used solely for research purposes to analyze trends and explore the professional knowledge base of neurodiversity and inclusive design, use of legal/regulatory frameworks, real-world design barriers, practical experiences, and perspectives on AI tools. Only the principal investigator and co-investigator will have access to the data collected. Participants' recorded responses during the interview and the corresponding transcript text documents will be downloaded to a password-protected George Mason University OneDrive cloud server account associated with the principal investigator.

We will use several online platforms to conduct this study. Zoom will be used to host, record, and transcribe the interview. Microsoft365 OneDrive will be used to communicate, send emails, send electronic forms, and securely store any data collected or files created. Dedoose will be used to analyze and synthesize the transcripts. You may visit the following websites for information regarding their privacy practices:

- Zoom: <https://explore.zoom.us/en/privacy/>
- Microsoft: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/trust-center/privacy>
- Dedoose: <https://www.dedoose.com/platform/data-privacy-and-security>

Section 5: Where will my data be stored and how will it be protected?

The data collected will be stored on a George Mason University-owned password-protected server. While it is understood that no computer transmission can be perfectly secure, reasonable efforts will be made to protect the confidentiality of your transmission.

Section 6: How long will it be kept?

After five years of retaining the files, all documents associated with this research project will be deleted.

Section 7: Who can see my data?

- We (the researchers) will have access to the coded data only. This is so we can analyze the data and conduct the study.

- Agencies that enforce legal and ethical guidelines, such as
 - The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at George Mason University
 - The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP)
- We may share our findings in publications or presentations. If we do, the results will be de-identified data. If we quote you, we'll use pseudonyms (fake names).

1. Since all interviews will be conducted via Zoom, all responses will have a digital video recording with audio tracks. However, participants have the option to appear on-camera or off-camera. The responses acquired during the interview and the corresponding transcript text documents will be downloaded to a password-protected George Mason University Microsoft OneDrive cloud server account associated with the principal investigator. The recordings will be deleted as soon as the transcriptions are finalized. Transcriptions will occur via Zoom's embedded features. Only the principal investigator and co-investigator will have access to the data collected.

☐ I **agree** to video taping.

☐ I **do not** agree to video taping.

Note 1: If they select "I agree to video taping.", then they will progress to Section 8.

Note 2: If they select "I do not agree to video taping.", then they will be routed to the following:

Secondary Recording Option: Audio Only Taping.

- I **agree** to audio only taping.
- I **do not** agree to audio only taping.

Section 8: Contact Information

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team at dhathawa@gmu.edu and (703) 993-2019.

This research has been reviewed according to George Mason University procedures governing your participation in this research. You may contact the George Mason University Institutional Review Board office at irb@gmu.edu if you have questions or comments regarding your rights as a participant in the study. Please reference STUDY00000827.

Section 9: Digital Consent

2. If you consent to participate in this study, please indicate your consent for this study by checking the appropriate box:

☐ I agree

☐ I disagree

Note 1: If they select “I agree”, then they will progress to Section 10.

Note 2: If they select “I disagree”, then they will be routed to the following message:

“A Note from the Researchers – Thank you for considering our study. Although this was not the right opportunity at this time, we hope a future one will be.”

Note 3: They will then exit the form before any data is collected.

Section 10: Thank you for your consent

Your contributions will help identify current practices, challenges, and opportunities for supporting neurodiversity in digital learning environments. Please take just a few more minutes to answer a few screening questions and register for the study.

Section 11: Professional & Academic Background

3. My position title is... [enter title]

4. My years of experience is best described as...

- ☐ 1-2 Years
- ☐ 3-5 Years
- ☐ 6-10 Years
- ☐ 11-15 Years
- ☐ 16-20 Years
- ☐ 20+ Years

5. My level of education is...

- ☐ Associate Degree
- ☐ Bachelor’s Degree
- ☐ Master’s Degree
- ☐ Doctoral Degree

6. In the last 12 months, I have taken the following training related to instructional design: *Please type “none” if not applicable.* [Enter text]

7. I typically design the following types of courses:

- ☐ Online

- ☐ Hybrid
- ☐ Face-to-Face
- ☐ Other [Enter text]

Section 12: Scheduling

- You will be contacted directly to schedule a specific time convenient for you.
 - The interview is anticipated to take approximately 45-60 minutes, including the introduction and administrative details
8. My top two choices to meet are...
- Please select at most 2 options.
- ☐ Mondays: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
 - ☐ Tuesdays: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
 - ☐ Wednesdays: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 - ☐ Wednesdays: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 - ☐ Thursdays: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
 - ☐ Thursdays: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 - ☐ Fridays: 12:30 PM - 8:30 PM
 - ☐ Saturdays: 11:30 AM - 6:00 PM
 - ☐ Sundays: 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM
9. **Optional Remarks:** Here are a few details I think the researchers may want to consider during the scheduling process / actual interview: [enter text]

Section 13: Personal Information

10. My FIRST name is.... [enter name]
11. My LAST name is... [enter name]
12. My email address is... [enter address]
13. My phone number is... [enter number]
14. I prefer to be contacted by...

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Phone Call

Section 14: A Note from the Researchers

Thank you for choosing to participate in our study. We look forward to connecting with you soon and greatly appreciate your interest, time, and effort.