### **Consent Letter: Novanet Discovery Usability Study**

**Investigators:**

Cathy Chisholm, Liaison Librarian, Cape Breton University

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**Dear Participant:**

You are invited to take part in a usability study of the Novanet Discovery user interface (UI). The purpose of this study is to gather feedback from students so as to identify any major problems with the UI. The goal is to evaluate the UI for intuitive navigation, to identify problem areas and to recommend possible improvements to the interface. Results of the study will be shared with Novanet librarians and designers of the Novanet system.

**Who is being invited to participate?**

Undergraduate and graduate students with a valid university ID from the universities and community colleges that are part of the Novanet system of libraries.

**What will happen if I participate?**

If you agree to participate, you will be invited to come to the Library or convene online using remote collaboration tools such as Skype, Blackboard Collaborate, etc. (time and date to be determined) to perform a number of tasks using the Novanet Discovery UI (e.g., search for books and articles, etc.) and to share your comments and observations about your experience with a facilitator. You will be guided and observed by two facilitators. One facilitator will guide you through the process while the other will act as observer and notetaker. Your responses will be noted on paper surveys. The session should take approximately 45 minutes.

**What are the risks and benefits associated with participating?**

There is no foreseeable risk to you taking part in this study. The risks are considered minimal (i.e., no greater than those aspects of everyday life that relate to the research). By participating in this study, your feedback will contribute to the usability of the Novanet Discovery UI. Students, faculty, and all patrons of Novanet libraries will benefit with an improved and intuitive user interface enabling them to readily search, identify, and locate books, e-books, journal articles, DVDs, etc. for research, study, and pleasure. Librarians will gain a better understanding of our patrons' search habits and understanding of a complex research tool which may influence instruction and development of instructional aids.

**What about my privacy?**

The facilitator will ask you to provide some basic information about yourself (e.g., year of study, area of study/degree program, research tools you have used, etc.). You will not be individually identified in any reporting of the results of this study. Results will be anonymous. All information obtained in this study, including any data pertaining to you as an individual, will be kept in a secure location. Data gathered during this study will be destroyed after one year.

**What if I want to withdraw from the study?**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. If you choose to withdraw, any data collected up until that point will be included in the study analyses.

**How can I find out more about this study?**

If you have any questions or concerns about this study or your participation in it, please contact the principal investigator, Lindsey MacCallum at 902-457-6402, or lindsey.maccallum@msvu.ca.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Research Ethics Board has reviewed this research. If you have any questions or concerns about ethical matters or would like to discuss your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Statement of Consent:**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked for your consent when you arrive for your session. The facilitator will ask if you have read the consent letter and if you have any questions about the study. If you have not read the consent letter or if you would like to read it again, you will have the opportunity to do so. The facilitator will then ask if you agree with the following statements.

* I have read the information provided in the consent letter and I understand what the risks and benefits are to participating in this study.
* I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can end my participation at any time without penalty.
* I have had adequate time to think about the research study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

***Upon your arrival, we will ask you to verbally confirm your consent to participate in this study.***