

**Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects in Research**

Consent Form Template Instructions

* The consent form should be written at no greater than an eighth grade reading level and using lay person language (i.e., no complex scientific or medical terms). Avoid dense paragraphs using long sentences and large words. Use bullets, headings, and white space wherever possible to facilitate understanding.
* In the following template:
* Statements and questions in bold are to be kept as part of the consent form.
* Instructions are in italics. Remove these instructions from your final document.
* Suggested wording is in plain font. This information should be edited/deleted/revised to accurately represent participation in your study. Please carefully review all the language to ensure correct information specific to your study is relayed to potential participants.
* The consent form should be written in the second person, e.g., “You will be asked to….”
* If the consent form is for the involvement of children in a study, “you” should be replaced with “your child.”
* Pages of the consent form should be numbered.
* The signed consent form must be kept by the researcher as part of the research files and a copy must be given to each participant unless the IRB approval states otherwise.
* Staff in Research Integrity Services office can provide assistance in developing consent forms or pre-review your draft consent form at anytime. Please email [Julie Simpson](mailto:julie.simpson@unh.edu) (or call @ 603-862-2003) if you need help with developing consent forms.

consent form for participation in a research study

**researcher and title of study**

My name is Daniel Hocking and I am a postdoctoral research associate at the University of New Hampshire. I am conducing a study on “Comparing Journal Influence through Citation Metrics and Scholar Perception”**.**

**what is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this study is to compare how well various citation-based metrics of journal influence and impact related to the opinion and perceptions of ecologists. I need at least 30 participants in this study, but hope to receive many more responses. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this study.

**what does your participation in this study involve?**

Participation in the study involves answering questions related to publishing practices and rating and ranking ecology journals. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

**what are the possible risks of participating in this study?**

This study does not involve any sensitive materials or physical participation. I do not expect any psychological, physical, or financial risks associated with participation in this study.

**what are the possible benefits of participating in this study?**

There are no expected direct benefits to participants of this study. No financial or other incentives are provided for your participation. The study will help provide insight to the publishing practices of ecologists and how well research perception is reflected by various citation-based metrics.

**If you choose to participate in this study, will it cost you anything?**

There are no costs associated with participation in this study.

**will you receive any compensation for participating in this study?**

No compensation will be provided for participation in this study.

**do you have to take part in this study?**

Your consent to participate in this research is entirely voluntary, and that your refusal to participate will involve no prejudice, penalty or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled.

**can you withdraw from this study?**

If you consent to participate in this study, you may refuse to answer any question and/or stop your participation in the study at any time without prejudice, penalty, or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled

**how will the confidentiality of your records be protected?**

I seek to maintain the confidentiality of all data and records associated with your participation in this research.

To ensure anonymity, I will not be collecting IP addresses. This survey is being conducted using Qualtrics software; therefore, I will use their system of confidentiality protection: "*Qualtrics* uses Transport Layer Security (TLS) *encryption* (also known as HTTPS) for all *transmitted data*. We also protect surveys with passwords and HTTP referrer checking. Our data is hosted by third party data centers that are SSAE-16 SOC II certified. All data at rest are encrypted, and data on deprecated hard drives are destroyed by U.S. DOD methods and delivered to a third-party data destruction service.” <http://www.qualtrics.com/security-statement/>.

However, any communication via the Internet poses minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality.

**how will the data be reported and used?**

This data will be used to compare the opinions of participants with citation-based metrics of journal influence. Summaries statistics (aggregate responses) of participate responses will be reported along with correlation analysis with citation metrics. These summaries and analyses will be used in peer-reviewed scientific journals to help understand and inform publishing practices in the field of ecology.

**whom to contact if you have questions about this study**

If you have any questions pertaining to the research you can contact Daniel Hocking (dhocking@unh.edu) to discuss them.

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject you can contact Dr. Julie Simpson in UNH Research Integrity Services, 603-862-2003 or [Julie.simpson@unh.edu](mailto:Julie.simpson@unh.edu) to discuss them.

By continuing this survey, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and consent to the conditions stated above. No signature is needed, to maintain confidentiality and anonymity. You may still opt to stop the survey at any time without penalty.