



CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Crowdclass: Designing classification-based citizen science learning modules

University of California at Berkeley

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to evaluate new methods for combining citizen science crowdsourcing platforms and educational interfaces. We aim to create new methods of formulating the crowdsourcing microtask so that educational content can be more effectively integrated into citizen science platforms. In this study, we are interested in gaining your feedback on the efficacy and usability of our citizen science interface.

Participants must be older than 18 years old and be computer literate.

Procedures

If you agree to be in this study, you will be asked to do the following:

Participate in an approximately 25 min - 30 min remote session for evaluating a citizen science software interface. After a 5 min intro, you will be asked to spend approximately 25 minutes on a citizen science software interfaces, where you will first read a passage then answer some related questions. There is an extended study where you will be compensated for \$1 per 15 minute Skype or phone interview. With your permission, I will audiotape and take notes during the interview. The recording is to accurately record the information you provide, and will be used for transcription purposes only. If you choose not to be audiotaped, I will take notes instead. If you agree to being audiotaped but feel uncomfortable at any time during the interview, I can turn off the recorder at your request. Or if you don't wish to continue, you can stop the interview at any time.

Study location

The study will be conducted remotely in any location chosen by the participant.

Benefits

We hope that the information gathered from this study will go to benefit future designs of citizen science crowdsourcing platforms, which will allow a greater population to participate in citizen science.

There is no direct benefit to you from taking part in this study.

Risks/Discomforts

You are free to decline to answer any questions you don't wish to, or to stop the interview at any time. You will be interacting with a standard desktop computer. Some stress and fatigue might occur, but none that would not be experienced working in normal desktop environments. In case of unanticipated problems, you will be asked to stop the study.

Breach of confidentiality:

As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.

Confidentiality

Your study data will be handled as confidentially as possible. If results of this study are published or presented, individual names and other personally identifiable information will not be used.

To minimize the risks to confidentiality, we will do the following:

- The data will be collected with a key-value system. A single physical document (key) will link the research data to your identifiable information.
- Personal identifiers (email addresses and the key) will be destroyed a month after the end of this study.
- Your research records, including audio recording and computer-based data, will be stored in a locked cabinet (physical materials), in a secured building and/or in an encrypted, on a password-protected computer (digital materials).

The audio will be transcribed and the tapes will be erased one month after the end of the study. The research data will be maintained for possible use in future research by us for up to five years after the study is over. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this study data.

Compensation/Payment

You will receive payment for participating in the research study. We will accept your Human Intelligence Task (HIT) soon after the conclusion of the main study and the transfer for the compensation will accord to the guidelines provided on the Amazon Mechanical Turk website:

U.S. Workers:

You can transfer your earnings to your Amazon Payments account or into an Amazon.com gift card. You can disburse to your bank account as soon as your earnings are transferred to your Amazon Payments account.

India Workers:

You have the option to receive a direct deposit denominated in Indian Rupees into your bank account or you can transfer your earnings into an Amazon.com gift card.

Other International Workers:

You can only transfer your earnings into an Amazon.com gift card.

You can disburse your earnings by visiting the Earnings page. Regardless of your location, you are limited to one transfer per calendar day.

Privacy

The research workshop and interview will be conducted in a private room with only the researcher.

Rights

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You are free to decline to take part in the project. You can decline to answer any questions and are free to stop taking part in the project at any time. Whether or not you choose to participate in the research and whether or not you choose to answer a question or continue participating in the project, there will be no penalty to you or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights and treatment as a research subject, you may contact the office of UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, at 510-642-7461 or subjects@berkeley.edu.

If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at jlo@berkeley.edu or (925)667-7388 or you can contact the principal investigator Eric Paulos at epaulos@berkeley.edu.

Consent

You have been given an electronic copy of this consent form to keep. If you wish to participate in this study, then your acceptance to this HIT is equivalent to a digital signature of this study consent form, dated on the day that the HIT is accepted.