

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY

Plain Language Statement

Minerva – Research and Testing

Research conducted by Gareth Hogan and Jack Farrell

Supervised by Gareth Jones

DCU School of Computing

Minerva is a chatbot designed to enable users with little technical knowledge to access and utilise large and complex databases. Users can interact with Minerva through a web based interface, asking questions and submitting prompts that are transformed into database queries, the results to these queries are then displayed back to the user.

This study is being conducted to help understand how well the Minerva is performing, to identify any defects or bugs and language phrases (Synonyms, Slang, etc.) that Minerva does not interpret correctly. This study also hopes to gain opinions from participants on how the system feels to use, and any suggestions or feedback on the user experience.

Data Protection/Privacy Notice

During the study none of your personal data will be recorded. Any opinions or suggestions will be collected anonymously and will have no data links to you.

Information will be anonymised and protected to the full extent that we can however confidentiality of information can only be protected within the limitations of the law - i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions.

Data Destruction Policy

The feedback taken via the anonymous survey will be deleted at the end of this academic year by Gareth Hogan

What the Study will involve

If you decide to participate in the study, it will involve completing a short anonymous survey after seeing Minerva demonstrated or having the chance to interact with Minerva yourself.

You can choose to withdraw from the study at any time, at that point no further data or information will be recorded from you, however any data gathered up to that point will still be processed according to the data protection and privacy rules above.

After the study

The study results will not be published publicly, and we will not be in contact after you are done to update you on the studies progress, if you have any questions after the study is over, please contact one of the researchers.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact:

The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie

DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY
Minerva - Informed Consent Form

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I understand that for the purposes of the study my responses to the survey will be recorded and kept until the end of this academic year. I also understand that none of my personal data will be collected during the process of this study.

I acknowledge that the data controller for this study is Gareth Hogan, and I should go to him with any questions or clarifications I need.

I understand that during this study I will be asked to complete an anonymous survey after watching a demonstration of the system or interacting with it myself.

I understand I can withdraw from this study at any time.

I understand that my information will be protected to the best extent possible within the limitations of the law as stated in the Plain Language Statement

Participant – please complete the following (Circle Yes or No for each question)

<i>I have read the Plain Language Statement (or had it read to me)</i>	Yes/No
<i>I understand the information provided</i>	Yes/No
<i>I understand the information provided in relation to data protection</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study</i>	Yes/No
<i>I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions</i>	Yes/No

Signature:

I have read and understood the information in this form. My questions and concerns have been answered by the researchers, and I have a copy of this consent form. Therefore, I consent to take part in this project

Participants Signature: _____

Name in Block Capitals: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____