School of Computing Science
University of Glasgow

Ethics information: introduction scripts

The introduction script that is used at the start of the experiment must:

- state the general aim of the experiment
- explain why you need the involvement of other people
- describe what will happen in the experiment
- describe what data will be collected
- explain what interaction the participant may have with you during the experiment
- reassure the participant that this is not a test of ability
- state that the participant may withdraw at anytime
- seek explicit consent
- allow the participant to ask questions

An example introductory script (italics indicate the required information):

Web Interface Investigation
IM2, 2003/4
Jane Student

"The aim of this experiment is to investigate the suitability of these web pages *[state the general aim of the experiment]*. We cannot tell how good web pages are unless we ask those people who are likely to be using them, which is why we need to run experiments like these *[explain why you need the involvement of other people]*. I will give you some time to browse the pages, before asking you to answer some questions. *[describe what will happen in the experiment]*. I will be observing you while you perform the tasks.*[describe what data will be collected]*. Please ask questions if you need to and please let me know when you are finished *[explain what interaction the participant may have with you during the experiment]*.

I will ask you some questions at the end of the experiment *[describe what will happen in the experiment]*. Please remember that it is the system, not you, that is being evaluated *[reassure the participant that this is not a test of ability]*. You are welcome to withdraw from the experiment at any time *[state that the participant may withdraw at anytime]*. Do you agree to taking part in this evaluation? *[seek explicit consent]*. Do you have any questions before we start? *[allow the participant to ask questions]*."