

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
FACULTY OF SCIENCE

RESEARCH ETHICS: RESEARCHER STATEMENT

This form should be completed by the academic researcher. Tick the YES or NO box, and write in details where appropriate. Please read the UCT Code for Research involving Human Subjects before completing the form:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/ethicscode.pdf>

In the case of joint research projects, this form should be filled in by the Principle Investigator (PI). If students are investigators, the supervisor must ensure that they are fully informed of their ethical responsibilities and, if appropriate, complete and sign the MoU. Where the researcher is part of a project which is being co-ordinated from outside the Faculty of Science, the researcher should fill in the form in relation to her part of the larger research project.

Please feel free to give feedback to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee on this process. Return this completed form to the Chair: Science Faculty Ethics in Research Committee:
michael.meadows@uct.ac.za

Researcher name (Principal Investigator): **Lighton Phiri**

Title of research project:

A Lightweight Digital Library Framework

1. Have you read the UCT Code for Research involving Human Subjects? (available at the UCT web-site - go to http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/ethicscode.pdf)	YES ✓	NO
2. Is your research making use of human subjects as sources of data?	YES ✓	NO

Research focus

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3. In the space below state what your research question/focus is, and give a brief outline of your plans for data collection.

Is it feasible to implement Digital Library Systems based on simple architectures?

The research broadly seeks to investigate the viability of simple digital library system architectures.

The data collection will be done in two phases. In the first instance, a cohort of honours students –perceived to be competent programmers-- will be requested to build a number of layered services on top a digital library tool. The rationale behind this exercise is to measure the usefulness of the tool. The participants will then be requested to fill out a questionnaire.

In the second case, a series of controlled experiments, involving typical digital library system tasks, will be set up to measure the efficiency of the tool. Participants will then be required to answer questions in form of a questionnaire.

Information

4. Will participants (research subjects) in the research have reasonable and sufficient knowledge about you, your background and location, and your research intentions? Describe briefly below how such information will be given to them. If there is any reason for withholding any information from participants about your identity and your research purpose, explain this in detail below.	YES ✓	NO
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All participants will be sent an email with relevant details about the research being conducted and the reasons behind the research. All details about myself will also be provided.

Consent

5. Will you secure the informed consent of all participants in the research? Describe how you will do this in the space below. If your answer is NO, give reasons below.	YES ✓	NO
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All participants will be required to sign a consent form prior to undertaking the exercise.

6. In the case of research involving UCT students have you applied to the Director: Student Affairs for permission to conduct this research.	YES ✓	NO

Confidentiality

7. Are you able to offer privacy and confidentiality to participants if they wish to remain anonymous? If you answer YES then give details below as to what steps you will take to ensure participants' confidentiality. If there are any aspects of your research where there might be difficulties or problems with regard to protecting the confidentiality and rights of participants and honouring their trust, explain this in detail below,	YES ✓	NO

The questionnaires will be completely anonymous. It will not be relevant to have personal details of participants in the questionnaires.

Potential for harm to participants

8. Are there any foreseeable risks of physical, psychological or social harm to participants that might result from or occur in the course of the research? If your answer is YES, outline below what these risks might be and what preventative steps you plan to take to prevent such harm from being suffered.	YES	NO ✓

Potential for harm to UCT or other institutions

9. Are there any foreseeable risks of harm to UCT or to other institutions that might result from or occur in the course of the research? e.g., legal action resulting from the research, the image of the university being affected by association with the research project, or a school being compromised in the eyes of the Education Ministry. If your answer is YES, give details and state below why you think the research is nonetheless worthwhile.	YES	NO ✓
10. Are there any other ethical issues that you think might arise during the course of the research? (e.g., with regard to conflicts of interests amongst participants and/or institutions) If your answer is YES, give details and say what you plan to do about it.	YES	NO ✓



Signed: _____

Date: April 19, 2012