

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

STUDY TITLE: EVALUATION OF MULTIPLE-INTERSECTING TREE VISUALIZATIONS

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Visualizing hierarchical data is one of the core areas of Information Visualization. However, most of these techniques focus only on single hierarchies (i.e.) visualization of elements that belong to only one hierarchy. Hardly any research has been done on the visualization of elements that belong to multiple hierarchies. Hence, I've developed a compact visualization that can visualize elements from multiple hierarchies in a single tree structure.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate tree visualizations which will be used to compare two hierarchies. The results of the study will be used to understand which visualization aids in simplifying the complex tasks that are performed for comparing two hierarchies.

The study will run approximately for a total of 45 minutes. The study is divided into four parts, namely:

- 1) **Overview:** This phase will give you a brief idea of the visualization and the dataset.
- 2) **Guided Tour:** This stage is designed to help you to interact with the visualization. The first and second stage will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- 3) **Training:** The training session will run for 15 minutes and is designed to help you get accustomed to the visualization and the question-answer module.
- 4) **Experiment:** The last stage of the study will require you to complete a set of tasks which will help to evaluate the usability of the visualizations. This stage will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

The characteristics of the participants required in the study include students.

- 1) **Students:** This group includes Computer Science students who are familiar with and can navigate simple information visualizations.
- 2) **Librarians:** This group includes Librarians who are familiar with the Library of Congress Classification system and can navigate simple information visualizations.

We will invite approximately 60 participants to evaluate one randomly picked multiple-intersecting visualization.

RIGHTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You may discontinue and withdraw your participation at any time during the research activity. You may also request to have your data withdrawn from the study and deleted by mid-

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December 2023, by notifying the researchers through the contact information provided at the end of this form.

Students who choose to either take part or not take part in the study will have no impact on their marks, assessments or future studies.

FATE OF THE SAMPLE

- *Disposition:* All identifiable information will be pseudonymized. For example, we will refer to participant's name and organization with pseudo-names such as University A, Participant A, Organization A instead of their real names. Personal information will not be shared.
- *Storage:* The data captured for the research does not include any personally identifiable information about you or your organization.
 - Data will be stored securely in Box accessed through Sussex user accounts. The list of participants pseudonyms will be stored separately apart from the data.
 - The results of the study will be made available to the participants via research publications resulting from the project. The data will be retained for 4 years after the end of the study.

All data collected will be stored securely on a University of Sussex managed system.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

This study is conducted by researchers at the Department of Informatics at the **University of Sussex**.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

This study has been approved by the Science and Technology Cross Schools Research Ethics Committee ethical review process. The ethical review application number of the study is ER/RF312/3.

INSURANCE

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any concerns relating to this project please contact (Rachael Fernandez, rf312@sussex.ac.uk or Prof. Peter Cheng, p.c.h.cheng@sussex.ac.uk) and/or the Chair of the Science and Technology Cross Schools Research Ethics Committee, (crecscitec@sussex.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking to review the information in this sheet.

If you would like to take part in the study, please fill and sign the consent form.