

## Participants Information Leaflet

This leaflet provides information about the research study **Ethical 'Collections as Data' Stewardship in the Age of AI** conducted by Giulia Osti, d-real/SFI-funded PhD candidate at the University College Dublin, School of Information and Communication Studies, under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Amber Cushing (University College Dublin) and Assoc. Prof. Suzanne Little (Dublin City University).

Before you decide whether to participate in this study, I would like to provide you with some detailed information to help you make a choice. Please take the time to read the following information as it will help you understand the process you may be involved in. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

### What is this research about?

The Collections as Data (CaD) initiative attempts to provide an ethically informed framework and resources to guide the creation of collections in the form of data to meet the needs of real communities, empowering them and the stewards who take care of these collections. CaD initiative is a relatively recent phenomenon, that is influencing the understanding of heritage data spanning across multiple countries and disciplines. Research Question

This study aims to:

- investigate how CaD principles are interpreted and implemented across various institutional and disciplinary contexts;
- explore the ideas and values associated with CaD stewardship;
- characterise the ethical challenges brought about by the intersection of CaD and Artificial Intelligence systems.

### Why am I doing this research?

You have been invited to participate in this research as we seek individuals who:

- Are familiar with the Collections as Data (CaD) initiative.
- Support or actively implement CaD principles in their professional practices.
- Work in fields such as library and information science, archival studies, digital humanities, etc. particularly with digital heritage collections.
- Are interested in discussing the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence to collections as data.

## **How will my data be used?**

The data collected during the study will only be used for research purposes and will not be shared with third parties without your explicit consent. Your confidentiality preferences will be fully respected to ensure that your information remains secure within law requirements. The findings from the data analysis will inform my PhD research and its subsequent refinement, facilitating the generation of relevant academic outputs (e.g. presentations, papers, workshops) in collaboration with my supervisors. If you decide to withdraw from the study, your data will be destroyed.

## **What will happen if I decide to take part in this research study?**

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to take part in an online interview through Zoom. After filling in **interview recruitment form** we will schedule an interview slot according to your availability. During the interview, **you will be asked to answer 8-13 questions, which I estimate will take you 35 to 65 minutes.**

## **How will my privacy be protected?**

Your privacy is of the utmost importance to us. To safeguard it, all participant identities and information will be handled with strict confidentiality. Interview data will undergo de-identification, with participants referred to by unique identifiers (e.g., PI0xx) before any publication. Interview recruitment forms, along with transcripts, and detailed notes, will be securely archived for five years following the project's completion. Access to these materials will be strictly restricted to myself and my main supervisor, ensuring that your information remains confidential and protected.

## **What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?**

Your participation in this research will contribute significantly to advancing our understanding. Although there may not be immediate or direct benefits, your insights will inform future research beyond the scope of my PhD.

Additionally, you will have the opportunity to be selected to receive a National Book Token e-gift card worth €25. These tokens can be used online or in bookshops across the Ireland and the UK — and most importantly, many participating bookshops offer worldwide shipping.

### **What are the risks of taking part in this research study?**

There are no foreseen risks from participating in this research. [Once approved, it will feature “This research has been identified as a low-risk level study, and has received clearance from the UCD Office of Research Ethics”].

### **Can I change my mind at any stage and withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time, without providing a reason or incurring some penalty.

### **How will I find out what happens with this project?**

You will have the chance to decide whether or not to be notified when the outcomes of this study will be published when filling in the interview recruitment form.