

Meta-search Information Practices and Support Participant Consent Form

You are invited to participate in a study titled “Meta-search Information Practices and Support” that is being conducted by Mohammad Shakirul Islam. He is a master's student in the Computer Science department at the University of Victoria. You may contact him if you have further questions at shakirul@uvic.ca.

As a master's student, he is required to conduct research to complete his MSc degree in Computer Science. The study is being developed under the supervision of Dr. Miguel Nacenta. You may contact his supervisor, Dr. Nacenta at nacenta@uvic.ca. The study is funded by a grant from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this research project is to understand how students or researchers use tools/software or apps to facilitate their final report writing.

Importance of this Research

The knowledge that we gather through this research can help us and others recommend specific ways and features for the tools/software that can be presented that benefit student, academics, and researchers. Additionally, they might help us, and others design tools that will be beneficial for their use.

Participants Selection

You are being asked to participate in this study because you are a university student, academic, or researcher.

Power Relationship

The lead experimenter Mohammad Shakirul Islam will be the only one knowing about your participation, and able to access the participation data under normal circumstances. Miguel Nacenta will not participate in recruitment or send out emails to students in their course if they are the course instructor. Miguel Nacenta will not know who has enrolled in the study.

What is involved

If you consent to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include

- Reading this consent declaration
- Completing a Survey that contains a few questions related to you and the study

We estimate that the survey will take 10-15 minutes of your time.

Inconvenience

None beyond the time spent needed to participate in the study.

Risks

There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this research.

Benefits

The potential benefits of your participation in this research include benefits to the state of knowledge, particularly in human-computer interaction.

Compensation

To compensate you for your participation for your time, we will provide a CAD\$5 gift card or transfer to your bank with a suitable payment medium. You will receive the amount after completing the survey. We encourage you to complete the survey properly.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you do decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time without any consequences or explanation. If you do withdraw from the study, it is logistically impossible to remove individual participant data once the survey is submitted.

On-going Consent

This letter of consent only applies to this survey. You are allowed to withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences. No identifiable information about you will be collected.

Anonymity

In terms of protecting your anonymity, the survey is completely anonymous. Participants will be anonymous in the dissemination of results. You can also receive the informed consent form via email. We will also ask you to provide your email at the end of the survey if you are interested in participating in any follow-up studies. This is completely voluntary.

Confidentiality

Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of the data will be protected by access restricted, and password-protected computers located in a research lab at the University of Victoria. Only the research investigators will be able to access the data.

Dissemination of Results

It is anticipated that the results of this study will be shared with others in the following ways: thesis, dissertation, class presentations, published articles, chapters or books, presentations at scholarly meetings, internet.

Commercial Use of Results

There is no commercial use of data collected during this study.

Disposal of Data

Data from this study will be destroyed 5 years after the beginning of the study. All data collected in the study and backups will be electronically deleted; physical documents will be shredded.

Contacts

Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include Mohammad Shakirul Islam (shakirul@uvic.ca), and Dr. Miguel Nacenta (nacenta@uvic.ca). In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

By completing and submitting the survey, YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

You may **download** the Participant Consent Declaration in [PDF](#).

* 1. Do you understand the conditions of participation in this study and agree to participate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Meta-search Information Practices and Support Participant ID

Please input your Participant ID, received from the research team.

2. Please input your Participant ID?



Meta-search Information Practices and Support Demographic Questions

* 3. What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Other (please specify)

* 4. What is your current age?

* 5. What is the highest level of education you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- ☐ Associate degree or diploma
- ☐ Undergraduate student
- ☐ Bachelor degree
- ☐ Master's student
- ☐ Master's level graduate degree
- ☐ Doctoral student
- ☐ Doctorate level graduate degree
- ☐ Post-graduate studies or appointments
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 6. Which of the following best describes your current occupation?

- ☐ Undergraduate Student
- ☐ Grad Student
- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Researcher
- ☐ Postdoctoral researcher
- ☐ Librarian

Other (please specify)

* 7. What is your domain?

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Questions related to the study

* 8. In a week, on average how much time do you spend on finding, reading, writing, manipulating, and interacting with research articles and works? (In hours)

* 9. Suppose you have found an important article relevant to your research. Can you order the following activities in order of what you do most often? (1- means most often)
[You may drag and drop the options]

		I read it right away
		I skim it
		I store/collect it in the archiving system/software
		I collect the title/citation/URL in a document
		I bookmark it

* 10. What type of information sources do you save in your collection? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ A copy of the original source material (PDF of an article, saved webpage, etc.)
- ☐ A link or Bookmark to the main page of the material
- ☐ A citation (Including a bibtex)
- ☐ Notes that I have made about my reading of the source material
- ☐ Notes about how I found the source, or other meta aspects of the reading
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 11. After reading or skimming an article, do you take notes? If yes how do you take notes? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ I annotate on the digital file
- ☐ I print the article and annotate on it
- ☐ I take notes on a separate document file
- ☐ I don't take notes
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 12. How do you rank the amount of time you spend on different research tasks? (1- means most time) [You may drag and drop the options]

<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Selecting articles from longer list
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Storing or collecting articles
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Cleaning or categorizing collections of articles
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Reading or skimming articles
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Taking notes or annotating articles
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Revising or revisiting the articles from my collection
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Analyzing or finding patterns in the collected articles
<div><div></div><div></div></div>	Writing the report from my findings

* 13. If you are managing a collection of references or documents, select all the possible activities you do on your collection: (You may select multiple)

- ☐ I don't keep a collection
- ☐ I categorize/prune items in the collection
- ☐ I consult the collection to write a paper or report
- ☐ I check the collection to find patterns
- ☐ I check the collection to remind myself of the articles
- ☐ I consult the collection to refresh my mind
- ☐ I use the collection to search for additional papers
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 14. During your research or literature review, how do you go back to an article? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ I never go back to an article
- ☐ I go back into my archiving system/tool
- ☐ I search for it again
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 15. How much do you agree with the following statement: It is easy for me to take electronic notes on various items in my collection such as PDF files, articles etc.

Very easyNeither easy nor difficultVery difficult

* 16. To facilitate your research journey, do you use any archiving system/tool? If yes, which of the following apply? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ I do not use any archiving system/tool/software
- ☐ I save articles on my local file system
- ☐ I save articles on a cloud file system
- ☐ I use an archiving system/tool/software
- ☐ I copy the title/citation/URL and save it in a document file
- ☐ I save articles as bookmarks in browser
- ☐ I take physical notes on index cards/notebook/sticky notes
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 17. There are a bunch of reference management tools currently used by researchers. Do you use any of those? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ Zotero
- ☐ Mendeley
- ☐ EndNote
- ☐ ReadCube Papers
- ☐ JabRef
- ☐ EasyBib.com
- ☐ Sciwheel
- ☐ RefWorks
- ☐ Paperpile
- ☐ BibTex
- ☐ Bookends
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 18. If you have experience with any reference management tool, overall how well do the tools support the process of writing the final report/paper?



* 19. When you are writing your paper/report how do you use your collection, annotations, and notes? (You may select multiple)

- ☐ I revisit the collection and read new articles that I have not read before, to write new parts of the paper/report
- ☐ I consult the collection to check the accuracy of what I have already written
- ☐ I refer to the collection to cite articles
- ☐ I only check the notes and annotations that I have taken of the articles in the collection
- ☐ I do not follow any of the options mentioned above
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 20. In your entire process, from searching for an article to writing the final paper, which part of the process feels most challenging for you? (1- is the most difficult) [You may drag and drop the answers]

Searching for papers

Selecting what to read

Storing the papers/articles

Getting the big picture out of my collection

Maintaining my collection

Reading papers

Writing the final report

* 21. How much do you agree with the following statement: It is difficult for me to take notes on various digital items in my collection such as new articles, files etc.

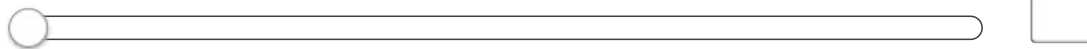
Very difficult

Neither easy nor difficult

Very easy

* 22. How much do you agree with the following statement: I generally satisfactorily utilize my collection for writing the final report/paper.

I generally underuse my collection for writing I optimally use my collection for writing I am overreliant on my collection for writing



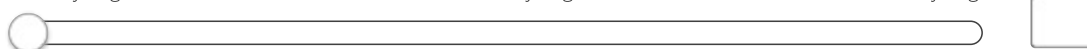
* 23. How much do you agree with the following statement: I wish I spent more time building my collection.

I should spend a lot less time collecting I spend the optimal amount of time collecting I should spend a lot more time collecting



* 24. How much do you agree with the following statement: I wish I spent more time analyzing my collection.

I should spend a lot less time analyzing I spend the optimal amount of time analyzing I should spend a lot more time analyzing



25. Do you have any suggestions for tools, applications or software that could improve the entire process of your research journey?



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Next phase of the study

26. If you are interested to participate in the next phase of this study. Please leave your email, which will be only used to contact you.

