



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
TE WĀHANGA PŪTAIAO

Lifelong Learning Supported by ePortfolio Processes

INFORMATION SHEET

You are invited to participate in a research project experiment. This information sheet provides background information to the experiment.

Introduction

The overall purpose of this research is to develop a learner-centered e-learning environment which will provide comprehensive support for lifelong learning in universities. The concept of this environment is built on an institutionally focused Learning Management System like Stream and a learner focused ePortfolio system. Based on interviews with lecturers and students at an earlier stage of the project, the requirements for such an environment were identified. Some of these requirements were implemented in an ePortfolio system prototype. You are invited to participate in the experiment that will evaluate this prototype.

The goals for this experiment are:

- to evaluate whether concept maps embedded into ePortfolio are suitable for supporting learning reflection;
- to understand whether the concept map tool can be successfully used for addressing graduate attributes/learning objectives;
- to analyse whether the concept map tool can help students develop understanding of their knowledge and learning experiences.

This research is being conducted as a part of doctoral studies by the researcher Yuliya Bozhko under the supervision of Dr Eva Heinrich, A/Prof Mark Brown and Dr David Parsons.

Participation in this project is voluntary. Students will not be penalized for not agreeing to participate in this research.

Participant Involvement and Support

As a participant of this experiment you will be asked to complete two exercises. First – using pen and paper, and second – using an ePortfolio system. Prior to the exercises you will be provided with the instructions on how to use an ePortfolio system and the concept mapping tool in particular. The researcher will be available at all stages of the experiment for technical support and for answering your questions. During the session the researcher might ask you some questions to understand the way you are thinking. At the end you will be asked to complete an exit questionnaire.

To facilitate data analysis, the session will be recorded in audio format. You will be asked to complete a consent form and an exit questionnaire. These forms and recordings will be collected and kept secured for five (5) years.

The findings of this study will be made available on request to the students who have participated in the experiment.

Data Collection

The data for this experiment will be collected in the following ways:

- System logs to get statistical information about the prototype usage;
- Concept maps created in the system;
- Exercise sheets. These will be anonymised when reported in a thesis or any publication;
- Exit questionnaire

No data will be collected from individuals who have not consented to participating in this experiment.

Participant's Rights

You are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- decline to answer any particular question;
- withdraw from the study at any time before data analysis was conducted;
- ask any questions about the study at any time during participation;
- provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used unless you give permission to the researcher;
- be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is concluded;
- ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time during the interview.

Project contacts

Office: AgHort A3.68, Turitea Campus, Massey University

E-mail: y.bozhko@massey.ac.nz or e.heinrich@massey.ac.nz

Phone: Yuliya (06) 356 9099 ext. 2625 or Eva (06) 356 9099 ext. 2466

Please feel free to ask any questions about the project.

Note

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher(s) named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Professor John O'Neill, Director, Research Ethics, telephone 06 350 5249, email: humanethics@massey.ac.nz.