

7-27-2016

# Navigating the Institutional Review Board for Librarianship Research

Carolyn Schubert

*James Madison University*, [schubecf@jmu.edu](mailto:schubecf@jmu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/letfspubs>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation


Schubert, C. (2016, July 27). Navigating the Institutional Review Board for librarianship research. National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeastern Atlantic Region webinar.

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries & Educational Technologies at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Libraries by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [dc\\_admin@jmu.edu](mailto:dc_admin@jmu.edu).



# NAVIGATING THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD FOR LIBRARIANSHIP RESEARCH

Carolyn Schubert, MLIS  
Health Sciences & Nursing Librarian  
James Madison University



# What brings you here today?

- A. Need to do research for your position
- B. Want to do research for your position
- C. Curious about the topic
- D. Killin' time
- E. Other

# Learning Objectives

- Understand the common required components of an IRB application and types of IRB review procedures
- Consider the opportunities and challenges for using different research methodologies in LIS research
- Learn about common tools and techniques to help with completing IRB applications

# IRB?!



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panic#/media/File:Actress-fear-and-panic.jpg>

**DON'T  
PANIC**

# Types of IRB reviews

## Exempt

- Not a research activity

## Expedited

- Not vulnerable populations
- Low risk

## Full board

- Vulnerable populations
- High risk

# What is a research activity?

- A ***systematic*** investigation designed to develop or contribute to ***generalizable knowledge***
- Information is about living people
- Information can identify individuals
- Information is not public



# IRB Reviews Question

A librarian at a university develops a module about evidence based practice and wants to determine changes in student knowledge. The librarian will use a pre and post test to measure changes. What type of IRB review would this study most likely go through?

- A. *Exempt*
- B. *Expedited*
- C. *Full Board*
- D. *Don't know*

# Answer

## NOT EXEMPT

- Is it research? **Yes**
  - *Systematic approach*
  - *Living people*
  - *Not public information*

# Answer

## NOT EXEMPT

- Is it research? **Yes**
  - *Systematic approach*
  - *Living people*
  - *Not public information*

## NOT FULL BOARD

- NOT vulnerable  
population (children,  
cognitively impaired, prisoners,  
etc)
- NOT high risk  
(harmful) intervention

# Answer

## NOT EXEMPT

- Is it research? **Yes**
  - *Systematic approach*
  - *Living people*
  - *Not public information*

## NOT FULL BOARD

- NOT vulnerable  
population (children,  
cognitively impaired, prisoners,  
etc)
- NOT high risk  
(harmful) intervention

**MOST LIKELY: EXPEDITED\***

# Common exemption categories

- Normal educational practices\*
- Public observation
- Surveys/interviews of elected officials
- Use of existing data
- Taste and food quality evaluation

*\*Institutional policies may vary*

Purpose



**Your IRB  
Proposal**

Audience

Genre

# Audience

- 5+ members
- Diverse representation (science vs non-science, gender representation)
- Not affiliated to institution

## 2015-2016 IRB Committee

### Chair

Dr. David Cockley	Faculty	Health Sciences
-------------------	---------	-----------------

### Faculty/Staff

Dr. Jeremy Akers	Faculty	Health Sciences
------------------	---------	-----------------

Dr. Keri Bethune	Faculty	Exceptional Education
------------------	---------	-----------------------

Dr. Heather Carmack	Faculty	Communication Studies
---------------------	---------	-----------------------

Dr. Tammy Castle	Faculty	Justice Studies
------------------	---------	-----------------

Dr. Laura Desportes	Faculty	Education Programs
---------------------	---------	--------------------

Dr. Pamela Gibson	Faculty	Department of Psychology
-------------------	---------	--------------------------

Dr. Trent Hargens	Faculty	Kinesiology
-------------------	---------	-------------

Ms. Tamara Hatch	Administrative Faculty	Office of Sponsored Programs
------------------	------------------------	------------------------------

Dr. C. Leigh Nelson	Faculty	Speech Communication Studies
---------------------	---------	------------------------------

Dr. Robert Roberts	Faculty	Political Science
--------------------	---------	-------------------

Ms. Carolyn Schubert	Faculty	Libraries & Educational Technologies
----------------------	---------	--------------------------------------

Dr. Aram Shahin	Faculty	Foreign Languages
-----------------	---------	-------------------

Dr. Linda Sobel	Faculty	Nursing
-----------------	---------	---------

Dr. Valerie Sulfaro	Faculty	Political Science
---------------------	---------	-------------------

Dr. Megan Tracy	Faculty	Sociology & Anthropology
-----------------	---------	--------------------------

### Student Representative

TBA

### Community Representatives

Dr. Betsy Early	Rockingham Memorial Hospital
-----------------	------------------------------

Ms. Helen Young	Rockingham Memorial Hospital
-----------------	------------------------------

### Ex Officio

Ms. Carolyn Strong	Office of Research Integrity
--------------------	------------------------------

# Common elements of an IRB protocol

- Purpose of the research
- Participant recruitment methods and criteria
- Research procedures (instruments, data collection methods)
- Risks and benefits
- Protection of subjects
- Informed consent materials



# 2001 Johns Hopkins

- Hexamethonium Asthma Study
  - *Researcher searched materials in PubMed and current textbooks*
  - *Hopkins IRB “relied on the information submitted by the investigator who was known to them as an experienced researcher”*
  - *MISSED 1950s literature on toxicity of hexamethonium*

# Literature review

- Identifies purpose
- Reviews known risks and benefits
- Explains decisions for your methods
- Source for instruments

# So many methods...

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observation
- Cohort study
- Ethnography
- Mixed methods

Explore more at

<http://www.ala.org/research/larks/researchmethods>

# Question should determine method

- Quantitative questions

- *“to test a hypothesis or when the range of behaviors or outcomes is already known”*
- *Survey, structured observation with checklist*

- Qualitative questions

- *“To investigate, explore, or describe”*
- *Interviews, focus groups, ethnography*

# Also consider your analysis

		Type of Data	
		Qualitative	Quantitative
Type of Analysis	Qualitative	<p>A) Interpretation of meaning in text or images</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grounded theory</li><li>• Cultural models</li><li>• Ethnographic mapping</li></ul>	<p>B) Interpretation of patterns in numeric data</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Epidemic curves</li><li>• Social network graphs</li></ul>
	Quantitative	<p>C) Statistical and mathematical analysis of text</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Content analysis</li><li>• Pile sorts</li><li>• Free listing</li><li>• Cluster analysis</li><li>• Chi square</li></ul>	<p>D) Statistical and mathematical analysis of numbers</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correlation measures</li><li>• Comparison of means</li></ul>

# Words of wisdom

- Surveys suffer from satisficing

- <http://crln.acrl.org/content/77/5/249.full>

- Paper surveys > online surveys

- *doi: 10.1080/02602930701293231*

- Dillman's (2014) Tailored Design Method helps with survey design and response rates

- <https://sesrc.wsu.edu/about/total-design-method/>

# Words of wisdom

- 12 interviews = saturated themes

- *doi: 10.1177/1525822X05279903*

- For multisite, cross-cultural studies, 20-40 interviews

- *doi: 10.1177/1525822X16640447*

- 80% of themes in 2-3 focus groups, 90% in 3-6 focus groups

- *doi: 10.1177/1525822X16639015*

# Participant recruitment

## ■ Criteria

- *Inclusion (who & why)*
- *Exclusion*

## ■ Timing

- *Contingent on project*
- *Check institution calendars*

## ■ Incentives

- *Direct (\$\$\$, extra credit, food)*
- *Indirect (donation)*

## ■ Methods

- *Flyers*
- *Email*
- *Listserv*
- *Doodle poll*
- *Mail merge*
- *Snowball sampling*
- *Mechanical Turk*
- *Social media*



# Words of wisdom

- People found through online recruitment systems (Mturk) more committed, but less diverse pool
  - *doi: 10.1177/1525822X15603149*
- Certain groups, like physicians, need higher incentive rates than average US person (\$50 vs \$1-5)
  - *doi:10.1177/0163278711406113*

# Consent forms

- Purpose of the research
- Participation time
- Procedures
- Risks
- Benefits
- Confidentiality
- Rights
- Contact for questions
- Options to volunteer or withdraw

# Question - Readability

## Clear

- Chronic diseases—those that go on for a long time and often don't go away completely—are among the most common and costly health problems, and we often know how to prevent them

## Unclear

- Chronic diseases and conditions—such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis—are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems

# How to Assess Readability

- Microsoft Word > Options > Spelling & Grammar > Readability Statistics
  - *Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level*

Readability Statistics	
<b>Counts</b>	
Words	902
Characters	5,424
Paragraphs	27
Sentences	28
<b>Averages</b>	
Sentences per Paragraph	4
Words per Sentence	24.9
Characters per Word	5.7
<b>Readability</b>	
Flesch Reading Ease	13.4
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	12

OK

# Question - Usability of library terms

- Kupersmith (2012) found that "the average user success rate for finding journal articles or article databases is 52% (in 20 tests at 14 libraries reporting this information)." Which phrase best helps users achieve their goal of finding journal articles?
  - A. *Database*
  - B. *E-Journals*
  - C. *Find Articles*
  - D. *Periodicals*

# Ways to improve consent

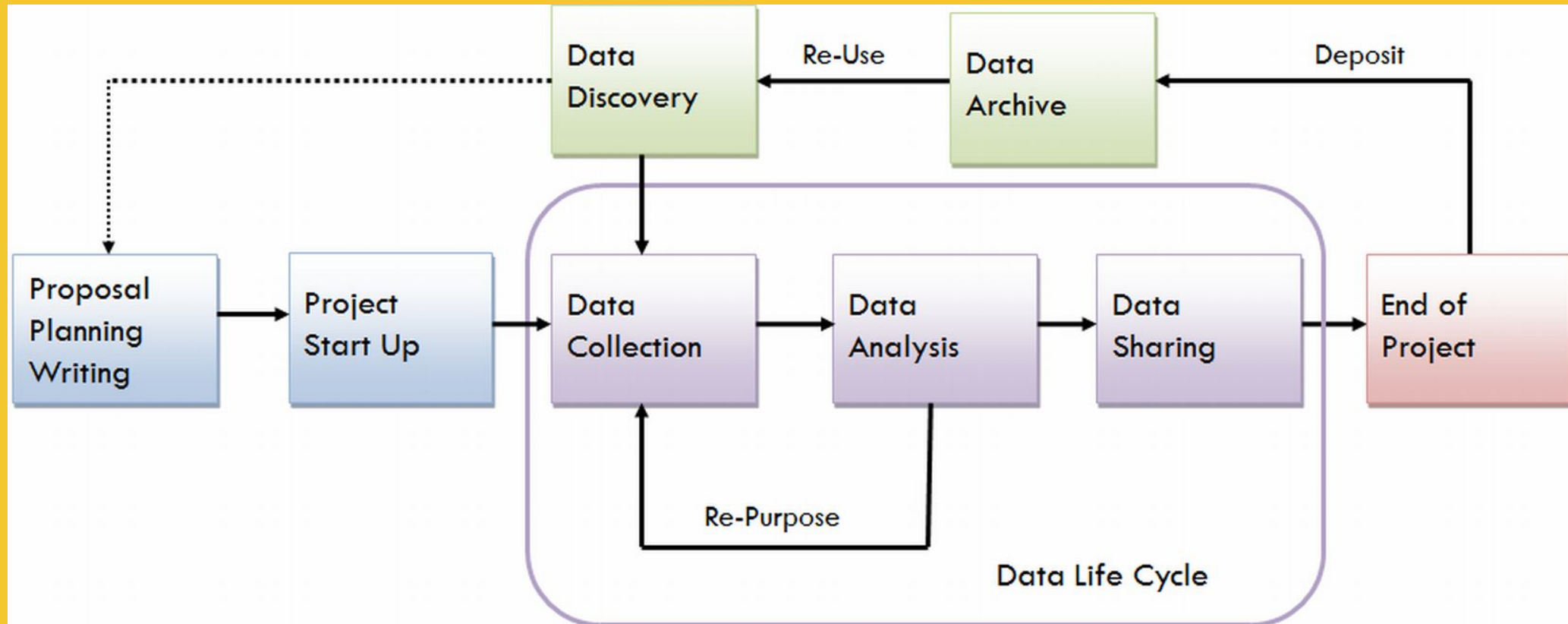
- Multimedia
  - *People learn better from graphics and text together*
- Discussion
- Test/Comprehension Quiz
- Consult with some regional experts at the University of Maryland, Baltimore HSHSL!

doi: 10.1186/1472-6939-14-28

doi: 10.3163/1536-5050.102.1.003

<http://hilt.harvard.edu/files/hilt/files/mayerslides.pdf>.

# Data life cycle



# Data management details

- Data format(s)
  - *Print, electronic*
  - *Text, audio, video*
- Collection vs analysis vs storage
- Access permissions
- Data sharing
- Retention and destruction plan



# Data management

## Anonymous

- Not identifiable to an individual at any point

## De-identified

- Identifiers collected at one point but later removed for analysis or publication

# Re-identification risk is real

## 2006 AOL search results

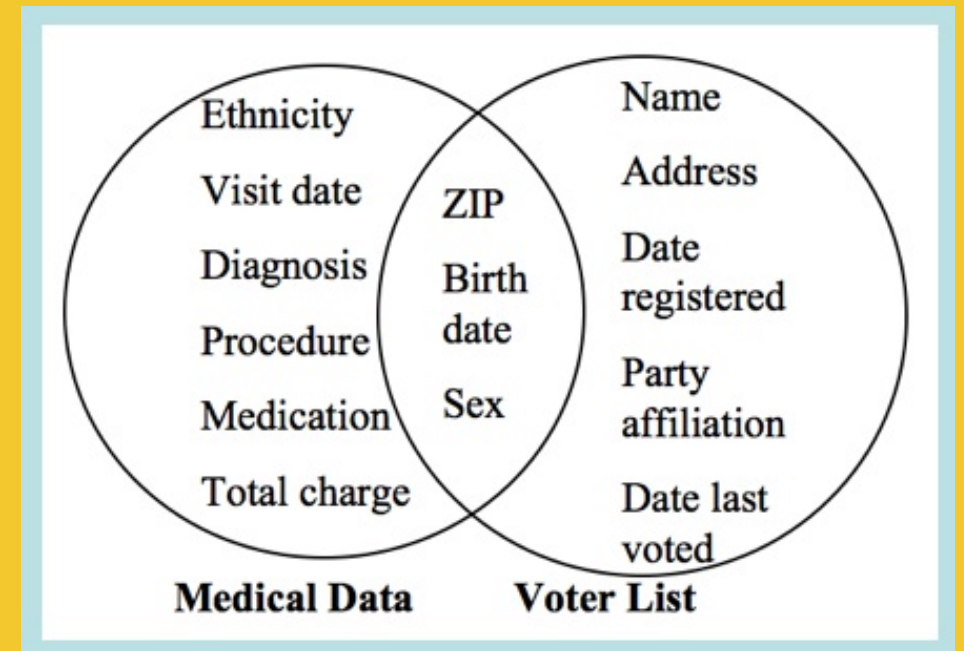
- De-identified search strings from a 3-month period
- AOL user No. 4417749 = Thelma Arnold

# Re-identification risk is real

2006 AOL search results

- De-identified search strings from a 3-month period
- AOL user No. 4417749 = Thelma Arnold

Sweeney 1997 data mashup



[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/09/technology/09aol.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/09/technology/09aol.html?_r=0)

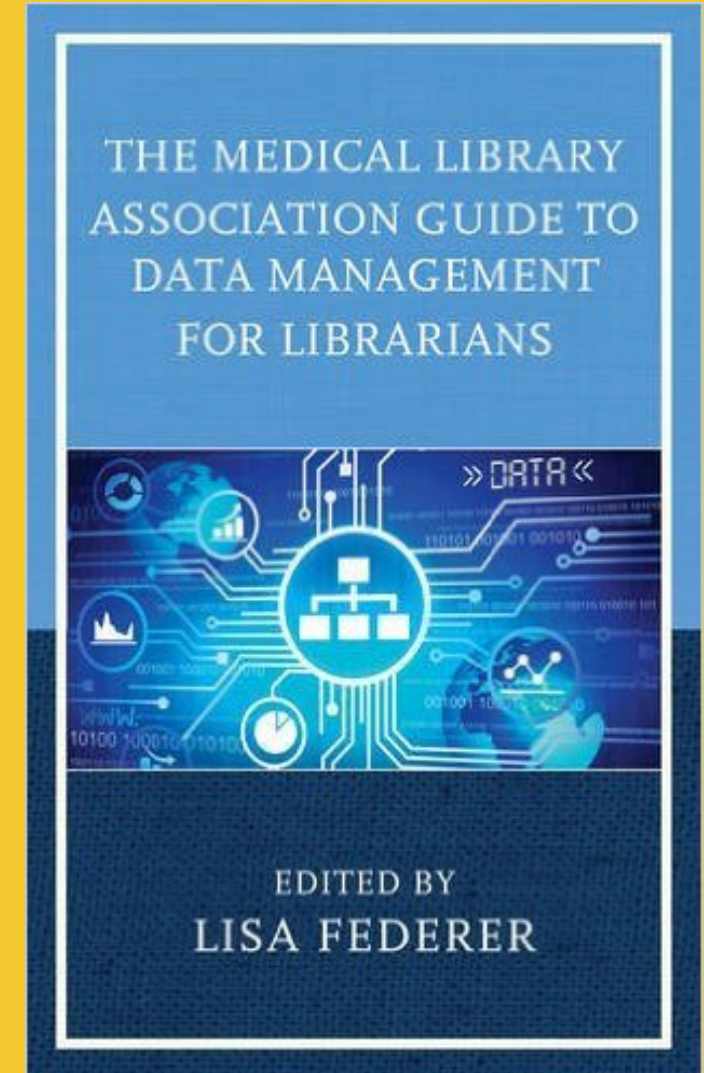
<http://latanyasweeney.org/work/identifiability.html>

# Words of wisdom

- Backups
- Encryption
- Check what you collect
  - *Qualtrics = Location data, IP address*

# Data management resources

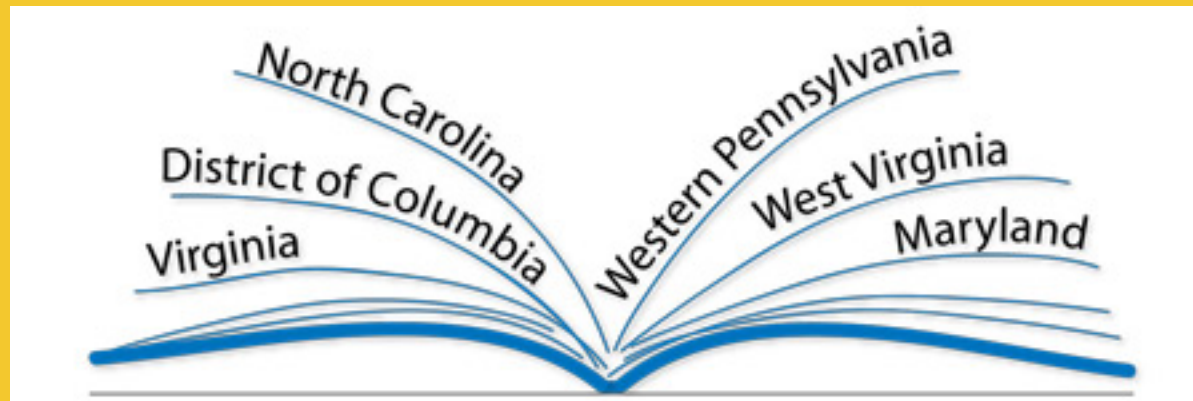
- New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum  
<http://library.umassmed.edu/necdmc/index>
- DMPTool  
[https://dmptool.org/dm\\_guidance#security](https://dmptool.org/dm_guidance#security)



# Thanks!



Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library  
Association – Research & Assessment Committee



# Questions?

You can contact me at  
[schubecf {a} jmu.edu](mailto:schubecf@jmu.edu)



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/20\\_questions\\_1954.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/20_questions_1954.JPG)