

**Study Title:**

Print and eBook Use Among High School Students: Circulation Patterns and School Librarians' Observations. (IRB: #1690)

Principal Investigator:

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Introduction

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Olivia Bentley, a graduate student in the Master's of Library and Information Science program at Southern Connecticut State University. This research is part of a master's Special Project and has been reviewed by the SCSU Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Participation in this study involves high school students completing a short survey about their reading format preference. The survey asks about reading format preferences and perceived benefits of each. The survey will take approximately **10 minutes** to complete.

Please read this form for the study, its purpose, potential risks, and benefits to decide if you would like to participate in the survey. Feel free to ask questions at any time.

Purpose of the Study

The results of this survey can be used as a factor, among other considerations, to determine how to allocate the library budget to best serve students and staff. The data found could potentially reveal if local libraries are sufficiently supporting their students' needs.

Procedures

If you agree to participate, you will complete a survey that includes multiple-choice, rating-scale, and short-answer questions.

The survey includes questions about:

- Student reading format preferences.
- Student experience using school library resources and materials.
- Student ease and difficulty with different formats.

Your participation is voluntary; you may skip any questions you do not want to answer.

Risks

This study has a low risk. Some questions ask about the challenges your students may face when accessing reading materials in different formats. These questions are not meant to collect sensitive personal information, nor are they meant to upset you. Nonetheless, participation in this study is voluntary, and you may back out at any time. This study will not ask for any of your personal information, and your responses are anonymous.

Benefits

This study is not designed to benefit you directly; however, your responses may help researchers and libraries better understand how high school student reading preferences could be used as a factor when developing school library collections to best serve student needs.

Costs/Compensations

There is no cost to participate, and no monetary compensation is provided.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without any consequences.

Confidentiality

All information obtained from you will remain **strictly confidential**. Your privacy will be

protected at all times. The survey will NOT collect names, home addresses, or any other personal information. Responses will be stored on a password-protected computer and on a secure online platform, accessible only to the researcher and faculty advisor. The results of the study and data will be analyzed and reported in aggregate form in the researcher's Special Project; however, no individual participant will be identified.

Future Use

Identifying information will be removed from the collected data, and the information may be used for future research studies or shared with other investigators without additional informed consent.

Contact Information

Please ask any questions on any aspect of this study that needs to be clarified for you. You may take as much time as you need to decide whether you wish to participate. If you have future questions, you may contact:

Olivia Bentley – Principal Investigator – bentleyo1@southernct.edu

Dr. Oghenere Salubi– Faculty Advisor – salubio1@southernct.edu

If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, contact the **SCSU Institutional Review Board** at (203) 392-6036 or irb@southernct.edu

Investigator Signature: I have explained to the participant the purpose of this research, the procedures required, and the possible risks and benefits to the best of my ability. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this consent form is true and accurate

Olivia Bentley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Bentley", written in a cursive style.