



Librarians as Research Ethic Board Members: an Exploratory Study

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SUBJECT: Librarians as Research Ethic Board Members – Invitation to participate in a survey

Dear CAREB/ACUC Member,

You are being invited to participate in this study because, as a member of a research ethics board (REB) or a coordinator of multiple boards, you can provide insight into the role of librarians on REBs. We need your help in understanding how many librarians sit on Canadian REBs, what role they play, and how they were chosen to take on this role.

Very little is known on Canadian librarians who sit on REBs. There is some background information on various roles of librarians on REBs, but that is usually from the perspective of one or two authors and often relating to the health sciences. Librarianship continues to evolve especially in the areas of research data management, research support, and scholarly communication. It is, therefore, important to understand the changing expectations and responsibilities that librarians may have in Canada in order to provide information professionals with the training and support they may need. This exploratory study will document the contributions librarians have had or are having on Canadian REBs.

As a voluntary participant in this study, you will be asked to answer a 10 minute online survey using Google Forms. Since the objective of this study is to understand the role of librarians on REBs, the researchers hope that you will take the time to forward our other survey (in the second email sent to you) to librarians who serve or have served on REBs. Any information you provide will be anonymous and will be securely stored on password-protected servers at the University of Alberta for a minimum of 5 years. Please note that while the survey asks for the name of your institution and your role on the board leading to risk of identification, the researchers will make no attempt to identify individuals who responded. Institutional information will be deleted from the data set as soon as some institution level lists have been compiled. Only the two researchers will have access to the information. Our files will not contain any personal identifiers (e.g., names). Study results may be presented at conferences, published in professional journals, and/or presented in class lectures.

Your participation is completely voluntary and there are no foreseeable risks to participating in this study. Similarly, there are no direct benefits to you as a participant. If you decide to be in

the study, you can change your mind and withdraw from the survey and the study at any time prior to completing the survey and sending it. Once you have completed the survey and sent it, it will not be possible to remove your comments from the survey results, as individual participants will not be identified. You do not have to answer any questions that you are not comfortable with in the survey. If you believe someone else is better suited for this research study, we ask that you please forward this email invitation to that person who will make their valuable REB experience known.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the research now or later, please contact Denis Lacroix or Trish Chatterley (see below).

The plan for this study has been reviewed for its adherence to ethical guidelines by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. For questions regarding participant rights and ethical conduct of research, contact the Research Ethics Office at (780) 492-2615.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Warm regards,



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