

Appendix B



LETTER OF INFORMATION

Title of the Research Study: Implementing problem-based learning (PBL) as a pedagogy in Information Literacy programmes at selected universities in South Africa.

Principal Investigator/s/researcher: D. Thomas

Co-Investigator/s/supervisor/s: Dr C. Chisita (PHD), Dr R. Govender(PHD)

Dear Research participant

Good day colleague, I trust that you are well. Thank you for showing interest in the above study.

My name is David Thomas. I am a PHD student at Durban University of Technology (DUT) in the Department of Information Systems. I am currently undertaking a study on Implementing problem-based learning (PBL) as a pedagogy in Information Literacy programmes at selected universities in South Africa. I would like to invite you to participate in the research.

What is Research (Research is a systematic search or enquiry for generalized new knowledge)

Academic libraries offer Information Literacy programmes to students to develop competencies in navigating the complex and dynamic information landscape. Information literacy provides content that empowers students to discover, find, retrieve and access relevant information from authoritative sources, evaluate information as per their information needs and apply the knowledge ethically (ACRL, 2016). Whilst librarians are not trained in the art of teaching, through practice and continuing professional development, they have adapted to this pedagogical role (Raju 2017). This study explores if and how librarians have implemented Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as a teaching pedagogy in their Information Literacy (I.L.) programmes.

Outline of the Procedures:

Approximately 50 academic librarians who teach information literacy at the selected institutions will be invited to participate in an online survey questionnaire, which would take approximately 30 minutes to complete answering the 36 multiple choice questions. The questions are focused on ascertaining the extent to which problem-based learning pedagogy is implemented in the information literacy training programmes of undergraduate students.

You will be contacted via email and provided with a link to access the questionnaire. The study will further include follow-up interviews after the online survey questionnaire, directed at selected participants, who are responsible for the leadership, coordination, planning and/or design of the information literacy programmes at the respective institutions identified for the study.

Risks or Discomforts to the Participant:

There are no foreseeable risks or discomfort to participants, or disrespect intended with this study.

Withdrawal from the Study:

You are entitled to withdraw from the study at any time should you wish to do so without any negative or adverse consequences, by advising the researcher that you no longer wish to participate.

Benefits: The study aims to explore how problem-based learning pedagogy is applied in undergraduate information literacy training programmes, to enhance the competencies of students at institutions of higher learning in South Africa and ultimately to recommend a framework for the adoption of PBL within undergraduate information literacy programmes.

Remuneration:

There will be no incentives on this study.

Costs of the Study:

As a participant, you will not be liable for any costs for this study nor will you receive any monetary compensation or any other remuneration.

Confidentiality: Although the respondents email accounts will be used to circulate the questionnaire, the identities of participants will be kept confidential during the data analysis phase as well as in the reporting phase of the study. The participant's responses cannot be linked back to him/ her, as their details are not stored on the system.

Storage of all electronic and hard copies including tape recordings

Data will be stored in a safe space only accessible to the supervisor, co-supervisor and researcher. The data will be stored for five years. Thereafter, any printed records will be shredded and the online copies will be deleted.

Persons to contact in the Event of Any Problems or Queries:

Please contact the researcher (0794960839), my supervisor (0837500968) or the DUT-Institutional Research Ethics Administrator on 031 373 2375. Complaints can be reported to the Director: Research and Postgraduate Support on researchdirector@dut.ac.za

General:

Participants are assured that participation is voluntary for each of the 50 academic librarians who will be invited to participate in this study. An information letter will be emailed to each participant after which a consent form will need to be read, signed and submitted to the researcher prior to participation.

CONSENT

Full Title of the Study:

Names of Researcher/s:

Statement of Agreement to Participate in the Research Study:

- ☐ I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the researcher, _____ (name of researcher), about the nature, conduct, benefits and risks of this study - Research Ethics Clearance Number: _____,
- ☐ I have also received, read and understood the above written information (Participant Letter of Information) regarding the study.
- ☐ I am aware that the results of the study, including personal details regarding my sex, age, date of birth, initials and diagnosis will be anonymously processed into a study report.
- ☐ In view of the requirements of research, I agree that the data collected during this study can be processed in a computerised system by the researcher.
- ☐ I may, at any stage, without prejudice, withdraw my consent and participation in the study.
- ☐ I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and (of my own free will) declare myself prepared to participate in the study.
- ☐ I understand that significant new findings developed during the course of this research which may relate to my participation will be made available to me.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Participant Thumbprint	Date	Time	Signature / Right

I, _____ (name of researcher) herewith confirm that the above participant has been fully informed about the nature, conduct and risks of the above study.

_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Researcher	Date	Signature

_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Witness (If applicable)	Date	Signature

_____	_____	_____
Full Name of Legal Guardian (If applicable)	Date	Signature

Please note the following:

Research details must be provided in a clear, simple and culturally appropriate manner and prospective participants should be helped to arrive at an informed decision by use of appropriate language (grade 10 level- use Flesch Reading Ease Scores on Microsoft Word), selecting of a non-threatening environment for interaction and the availability of peer counselling (Department of Health, 2004).

If the potential participant is unable to read/illiterate, then a right thumb print is required and an impartial witness, who is literate and knows the participant e.g. parent, sibling, friend, pastor, etc. should verify in writing, duly signed that informed verbal consent was obtained (Department of Health, 2004).

If anyone makes a mistake completing this document e.g. a wrong date or spelling mistake, a new document has to be completed. The incomplete original document has to be kept in the participant's file and not thrown away, and copies thereof must be issued to the participant.

References:

Department of Health: 2004. *Ethics in Health Research: Principles, Structures and Processes* <http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/factsheets/guidelines/ethnics/>

Department of Health. 2006. *South African Good Clinical Practice Guidelines*. 2nd Ed. Available at: http://www.nhrec.org.za/?page_id=14