

Informed Consent for Thompson Rivers University student whom is invited to participate in the research project: Identity & ePortfolios: Connecting cultural and educational identities

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Fulbright student program

You will be given a copy of the full informed consent form.

Introduction: I am Crystalyn Lemieux and I am a Fulbright research student from Alaska, United States, visiting here at Thompson Rivers University. I am doing a research project with Dr. Tracy Penny Light, who is an international ePortfolio expert here at the University. I am going to give you information and invite you to be part of this research. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in the research. Before you decide, you can ask me about the research project if you have questions. This consent form may contain words that you do not understand. Please ask me to stop as we go through the information and I will take time to explain. If you have questions later, you can contact me at this phone number 250-377-6075 or at this email address Clemieux@tru.ca.

Purpose of the research: Electronic Portfolio (ePortfolio) use is increasing at the university level and is used here at Thompson Rivers University. The project seeks to develop an approach for university students who come from diverse backgrounds to explore their cultural identities and to merge their Western educational experiences with their identity. Using ePortfolios, this project will provide students with opportunities to develop their own intellectual and cultural identities as they document their learning across contexts to develop knowledge, reflection skills, and abilities that foster career success. Importantly, ePortfolios will help students to reflect on their learning and see the connections between their educational and cultural identities. The research project focuses on measuring student's knowledge of ePortfolios, motivation to use ePortfolios, the value of ePortfolios, and knowledge of identity development.

Type of Research intervention: This research will involve a pre and post survey and the development of an ePortfolio.

Participant selection: You are being invited to take part in this research because we feel that your experience as a student with a diverse background can contribute much to our understanding and knowledge of the cultural identity ePortfolio and best practices for implementing ePortfolio.

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary. It is your choice whether to participate or not. At any time, you may withdraw your participation. You will not suffer any consequences by not participating. It will not harm your grade, future opportunities, or reputation or relationship with the researcher in anyway.

Procedure: We are asking you to help us learn about ePortfolio use and identity development and what it means to you. We are inviting you to take part in this research project. If you accept you will be asked to participate in a pre and post survey to answer a series of questions about your knowledge of ePortfolios, the value of the ePortfolio, motivation to use an ePortfolio, ease of use of an ePortfolio, and knowledge of identity development. The next step will be to create your own cultural identity ePortfolio. The last step will be to complete a post survey after completing the ePortfolio project.

Pre & Post Survey: The surveys will be administered using fluid survey. The surveys should take five to fifteen minutes to complete.

ePortfolio development: The development of an ePortfolio may take four or more hours to create. Participants may schedule an ePortfolio building session with Crystalyn to get technical support. Crystalyn works at the Gathering place Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 A.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will be shown an ePortfolio template that they can work from or they may choose to create their own template.

Duration: The research takes place over 4 months and begins in January and ends in April. During that time, Crystalyn will distribute the pre survey in January through the Fluid survey tool. The development of the ePortfolios will take place in January and February. The post survey will be distributed in February. In March Crystalyn will be analyzing the data and creating a final report and presentation. In April Crystalyn will finish editing the report and will present at the Gathering Place on April 4th 2017. The research project and final report will be available to participants at <https://eportfolio.sites.tru.ca/>.

Risks: There is minimal to no risk. When participants fill out the survey the information will not be linked back to your name, so your identity is kept safe and you are free to share your opinions. The information in the ePortfolio is voluntary and the participant chooses what to share and not share publicly. The participant has the choice to make their ePortfolio private or public. The information in the final report and presentation will not be linked back to you and your identity will be kept confidential.

Benefit: Your participation will help us learn more about the value of creating a cultural identity ePortfolio. You will have your own ePortfolio to use in your future educational or career experiences.

Confidentiality: The research being done at Thompson Rivers University may draw attention and if you participate you may be asked questions by other students or community members. We will not be sharing information about you to anyone outside of the research team. The information that we collect from this research project will be kept private. Any information about you will have a number on it instead of your name. Only the researchers will know what your number is. It will not be shared with or given to anyone except Crystalyn Lemieux and Dr. Tracy Penny Light and that information will be stored in a locked cabinet.

Sharing the results: Nothing that you share with us in the pre or post survey will be shared with anybody outside the research team, and nothing will be attributed to you by name. The knowledge that we get from this research will be shared at the Gathering place April 4th 2017. Each participant will receive a summary of the results at the presentation in April. The research project and report will be posted on the Thompson Rivers University website at <https://eportfolio.sites.tru.ca/>.

Right to refuse or withdraw: You do not have to take part in this research if you do not wish to do so, and choosing to participate will not affect you in any way. You may stop participating at any time that you wish.

Who to contact: If you have any questions, you can ask them now or later. If you wish to ask questions later, you may contact any of the following:

Crystalyn Lemieux

Fulbright Student/Visiting scholar
250-377-6075
clemieux@tru.ca

Tracy Penny-Light

Professor
250-828-5348
tpenny@tru.ca

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by Thompson Rivers University Institutional review board, which is a committee whose task it is to make sure research participants are protected from harm. If you wish to find more about the IRB please contact the Research and Graduate studies office, Phone: 250-371-5586 Email: research@tru.ca

Certificate of Consent

Please circle Yes or No

Yes No	I understand that I am consenting to filling out a pre and post survey on the fluid surveys tool.
Yes No	I understand the project and know that by signing this form I am agreeing to participate in the research project: Identity & ePortfolios and I am participating by creating an ePortfolio.
Yes No	I understand that at any time I can leave the project and I can request to have my information withdrawn from the project.
Yes No	Crystalyn Lemieux has my permission to use any photos taken during the creation of the ePortfolio project to use in the final presentation on April 19 th , 2017 and the photos may be used on the Thompson Rivers University website at https://eportfoliosites.tru.ca/ .

Please note: This form will remain on file for seven years in a locked cabinet in Dr. Tracy Penny Light's office and serves as the consent form for the Identity & ePortfolios: Connecting cultural and educational identities.

Date:	Signature of Participant:	
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