

Semi-Structured Interview Questions

Participant Id _____

Start by talking through questionnaire responses.

Next, we would like you to think about a collaborative project or activity that you have worked on recently, or are currently working on that involve a continued period of on-line research. We are especially interested in projects that:

- Require doing searches on the Internet and/or specific databases or libraries
- Continue across several weeks or months
- Involve multiple “sessions” in which you conducted searches and found information
- Involve at least one additional person who was working on the project in some role (peer, manager, subordinate, etc.) and preferably would involve two or more additional people.

For each project, please answer the following questions.

- 7) How long did the project take to complete? If it is on-going, how long has it been going and when is it estimated to end?

- 8) Were you satisfied with the searching and collaboration aspects of the project? Why or why not?

- 9) What were the advantages of working with other people on this project?

Questions – Information Seeking

Next, we'd like to ask about the searches you are doing and the information you are looking for.

- 1) How did you get started?

- 2) What challenges have you encountered related to searching and managing results found?

- 3) What search engines / databases / catalogs did you use? How did you know to use them?

- 4) How did you save / organize / manage the information you found?

- 5) Did you find any especially good or surprising pieces of information? How did you find these?
- 6) How did you share found information with others working on the project?
- 7) How did others share information with you?
- 8) What types of documents did you find (i.e. web pages, PDF files, pictures, etc.)?
- 9) How did you resume your searches from previous sessions? How did you remember where you had left off?
- 10) How did you re-find information that you had found in earlier sessions?
- 11) How did you make sense of all the results you found? How did you synthesize across all the information?
 - a. Did you take notes? If so, how (notebook, Word doc, email)?

b. Did you make printouts?

12) What tools are you (and the other group members) using as part of the project, especially for collecting and managing the information you find? Which have been most useful?

13) How did your methods for collecting and sharing results change over the course of the project?

14) How will you summarize and archive the results?

15) What was the biggest obstacle you encountered in

a. conducting the searches?

b. in sharing the results?

16) If you could design a tool to help you with conducting, saving, managing, and sharing the results of these searches, what would it look like?

17) Is there anything else you would like to add that we have not covered?

18) Would you be interested in participating in a related study later this year? If so, please tell us an email address we could use to get in touch with you.