**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Informed consent form for participants of Research Involving Human Subject**

**Title of the Project:** Investigating the Quality of Automatically Generated Tags for Disaster Webpages

**Investigators**: **Seungwon Yang**

**Faculty investigators: Dr. Edward A. Fox**

**Participant number:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I. PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH**

The investigators of this study are working on developing an automatic topic identification method, which assigns topics given an electronic textual document. The purpose of this study is to rate the automatically-generated tags by three human indexers. The rating scores are used to evaluate our automatic topic tagging system.

**II. PROCEDURES**

All the communications, sending (links of) forms are conducted by email. Your answers for the main task forms are collected using an online survey system.

Upon receiving your signed informed consent (this form) by FAX/scanned PDF/images/mail, we will send you a link to the first task form. It consists of instructions, 30 textual documents, and about 9-11 automatically generated topic tags.

You will get familiarized with the steps of doing the task by reading the instructions, which is in the top portion of the task form. Then, you read each of the 30 text documents, and rate tags associated with each document by selecting a Likert-scale score ((-2: Strongly Disagree, -1: Disagree, 0: Neutral, 1: Agree, 2: Strongly Agree). There is an optional question at the bottom of the online task form that you may answer. In total, the task will take approximately 2-4 hours. You can stop and resume work anytime during your participation. There is no time limit in the task completion, but we encourage you to finish the tasks in 2 days at most. When you complete the task, you will receive a $20 Amazon gift card by email as compensation.

Upon completion of the first task form, we will send you a link to the second task form. When you complete the task, you will receive a $20 Amazon gift card by email. Therefore, you can receive a maximum of $40 for two completed tasks.

**III. RISKS**

You are involved with reading textual documents on a computer screen and rating tag quality by clicking one of score options. The physical components of the task previously described may result in eye, wrist, or finger fatigue.

If you experience any fatigue during the task, you are free to rest and may continue when you are ready. If the fatigue becomes uncomfortable, you will be allowed to leave the study with no penalty.

**IV. BENEFITS OF THIS RESEARCH**

You will experience the task of tag rating, which is relevant to the field of Library and Information Sciences. In addition, you will receive a gift card of $20 for each completed task form ($40 for both completed tasks).

**V. EXTENT OF ANONYMITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

This research will assure your confidentiality. We will have your signatures on the Informed Consent document. Faxed, scanned PDFs, images of the signed document, or a paper form are all acceptable. This document will be kept in the computer of a researcher, Seungwon Yang, until his dissertation and related publications are published. Your name will not be released in any publications. After publishing the dissertation and acceptance of related papers, Seungwon Yang will destroy the documents (in electronic forms) from his computer.

Only the researcher, Seungwon Yang, will collect the data. No one other than the researchers will have access to the data. All responses will be coded so as not to include the name of the participant. Your two-digit participant number will only identify you during analysis and any written reports of the research.

This study is being conducted solely for research and development purposes, and the resulting data and interpretations also will be the part of the researcher’s academic work. Consistent with these academic purposes, any results would be freely publishable. Again, to protect your identity, personal names will not be used in any published works. We are willing to share drafts of reports with you before submitting them for publication.

**VI. COMPENSATION**

A $20 gift card is provided for each completed task form. Therefore, a maximum of $40 gift card can be provided for the two completed task forms.

**VII. FREEDOM TO WITHDRAW**

Your participation is voluntary and the decision on whether you wish to participate or not is strictly your own. You may discontinue participation at any time. However, the compensation will be given to those who complete the experiment.

**VIII. APPROVAL OF RESEARCH**

This research project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board for Research Involving Human Subjects at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and by the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering (College of Engineering).

**IX. PARTICIPANT’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Upon signing this form, I voluntarily agree to participate in this study. I have no restrictions to my participation in this study. As a participant, I may withdraw from this experiment at any time without penalty. I agree to abide by the rules of this project.

**X. PARTICIPANT’S PERMISSION**

I have read and understand the Informed Consent and conditions of this study. All of my questions have been answered. I agree to participate in this experiment.

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Participant’s Signature Date

Should I have any questions about the research or its conduct, I may contact:

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Chair, IRB