

## Appendix A

***Informed Consent to Participate in Research***

The University of Texas at Austin

You are being asked to participate in a study on behalf of the American Library Association (ALA) in order to assess the impact of the Spectrum Initiative. Dr. Lorie Roy, Professor at the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, is the Principal Investigator for this study and can answer any question you might have. You will find background about the study, below. While all recipients of Spectrum Scholarships indicated in the application process that they would participate in a longitudinal study, we want you to know that your participation is voluntary.

**Title of Study:** The Spectrum Initiative Longitudinal Study

**Principal Investigator and Contact Information**

Lorie Roy, Ph.D., Professor  
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She is assisted by a research team that includes: Jorge Chavez, Graduate Research Associate, School of Information, The University of Texas at Austin; Glendora Johnson-Cooper, Social Sciences Librarian, Arts and Sciences Libraries, University of Buffalo; Cynthia Tysick, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Buffalo, Arts and Sciences Libraries; and Daisy Waters, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Buffalo, Central Technical Services, Lockwood Library Building

**Funding source:** The American Library Association

**What is the purpose of this study?**

The purpose of this study is to document the impact of the Spectrum Initiative.

**How was I selected to participate?**

All 227 Spectrum Scholars who received Scholarships from 1998/99 through 2002/03 are invited to participate in completing the survey. Ten percent (22) of Scholars will be invited to participate in the life history interviews. Dr. Roy will conduct life history interviews of Scholars attending 8 to 10 schools of library and information science, including those residing geographically close to locations Dr. Roy will visit.

**What will be done if you take part in this study?**

You will be asked to complete an online survey available on ALA's Office for Diversity Web site. You may also be asked to participate in an audio-recorded life-history interview. Dr. Roy will conduct these interviews.

**What are the possible discomforts and risks?**

- A. You might be concerned about some of the questions on the survey or in the life-history interviews.
- B. You might be concerned that your confidentiality will be compromised. You might be concerned that others will know that you participated in this study or that others might know how you responded to specific questions.
- C. The project does not involve any physical risk.

**What are the possible benefits to you or to others?**

You will help us understand how the Spectrum Institute has influenced the professional lives of the Spectrum Scholars. Your answers will also help us understand:

1. What influences whether a person of color chooses a career in library and information studies?
2. How do students of color select a school of library and information studies?
3. What impact has the Spectrum Initiative had on award recipients' beginning professional careers?
4. What impact has the Spectrum Initiative had on award recipients' professional involvement?
5. What might be done to assist students of color to complete their degrees from ALA-accredited master's programs or NCATE school library media programs?
6. How might people of color be recruited into careers in library and information science?

**If you choose to take part in this study, will it cost you anything?**

No. Your time involvement is your one cost.

**Will you receive compensation for your participation in this study?**

No compensation is available for Scholars who complete the online survey.

If you participate in a life-history interview you may request a copy of a professional publication such as Valerie Yow's Recording Oral History: A Practical Guide for Social Scientists (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1994) in compensation for the additional time you expend on participating in this interview.

**If you do not want to participate in this study, what other options are available to you?**

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to decline to participate in the study. If you decline you will not influence current or future relationships with the University of Texas at Austin.

**How can you withdraw from this study?**

You may just indicate that you do not want to take part (or continue) in this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits for which you may be entitled. You can indicate this, below.

**In addition, if you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact Clarke A. Burnham, Ph.D., Chair, The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, (512) 232-4383.**

**How will your privacy and the confidentiality of your research records be protected?**

After you submit your responses online on ALA’s secure Web site, your replies will be forwarded to Dr. Roy. She will share only the coded responses with the rest of the research team. If you participate in the life-history interviews your responses will be revealed only in the text of published reports or in presentations. Dr. Roy will store the completed consent forms, the audio tapes and their transcripts in an off-campus site in a locked cabinet. Audiotapes will be played only for research purposes by Dr. Roy and the transcriber. Dr. Roy will erase the audiotapes upon completion of the written report of the study. Audio tapes will not contain labels that identify an individual.

Results will be largely presented in the aggregate. While we may use quotations or verbatim responses from the survey form in publications, we not attribute these comments to any one individual. In any event, we will not disclose your identity in any presentation or publication based on this study. Neither will be disclose your involvement or uninvovement in this study.

Authorized people from the University of Texas at Austin have the legal right to review the survey data that we receive from ALA and will protect the confidentiality of those records to the extent permitted by law. If the research project is sponsored then the sponsor also has the legal right to review your research records. Otherwise, your research records will not be released without your consent unless required by law or a court order.

**Signatures:**

**As a representative of this study, I have explained the purpose, the procedures, the benefits, and the risks that are involved in this research study:**

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**Signature and printed name of person obtaining consent                      Date**

**You have been informed about this study=s purpose, procedures, possible benefits and risks, and you have received (or can print) a copy of this Form. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions before you sign, and you have been told that you can ask other questions at any time. You voluntarily agree to participate in this study. By signing**

**this form, you are not waiving any of your legal rights.**

Yes, I agree to continue with this

1. survey
2. life-history interview.

No, I do not want to participate in this

1. survey
2. life history interview.

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**Printed Name of Participant**

**Date**

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**Signature of Participant**

**Date**

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**Signature of Principal Investigator**

**Date**

The American Library Association is interested in us gathering information about Spectrum Scholars over time. May we contact you again in the future to ask questions about your career progress?

Yes, I agree to be contacted again in the future.

No, I do not want to contacted again in the future.

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**Printed Name of Participant**

**Date**

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**Signature of Participant**

**Date**

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**Signature of Principal Investigator**

**Date**