

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND, BRISTOL

Study of textbook uses.

Researcher: Dr Vivien Rolfe (on behalf of the UK Open Textbook team)

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please feel free to ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Participants must be over 18 years of age.

What is the study about? This is an exploration of the use of textbooks in UK and the Republic of Ireland colleges and universities, including the awareness of open textbooks. These are books shared under open licenses that can be made freely available for students. This particular piece of research is part of an International Project funded by the US William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, working with the Open University OER HUB (https://twitter.com/oer_hub) and WONKHE.com in the UK. This research will inform us of textbook use and practices and help us to devise plans to raise awareness of open textbooks to benefit teachers and students.

Why have you been approached to participate? You have been approached through either direct invitation or through responding to an advert via Twitter because you have an interest in education, either through being a teacher or a student. We are seeking participation from colleges and universities (further – and higher education) anywhere in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Who is involved in the study? This particular survey is being run by Dr Vivien Rolfe at the University of the West of England in Bristol. She has an interest in open education, and she will work with project partners to analyse the results and share them.

Do you have to take part? You do not have to participate, and the study is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part in the online questionnaire, you will be given the opportunity to read this information sheet on the project website. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time. You do not need to give a reason if you wish to withdraw, and should you close down the survey at any time, your data will not be analysed.

What is involved?

There are two online questionnaires, one for teachers and one for students. These will both take about five minutes of your time.

What happens to the information? All your information and personal opinions will be treated confidentially. The SurveyMonkey service will not collect your IP address, and no personal data is collected. The resulting data (questionnaire raw data and results) will be stored securely on a work computer. Any work disseminated, published or communicated subsequently will be anonymous. No one will be able to identify you from the study.

Participant Information Sheet

Open Textbook Research by Vivien Rolfe Twitter: @vivienrolfe

What will happen to the results of the study? The results of this study will be disseminated at a conference and through publication. The work will be publicised through social media and be made available on the project website: <http://www.ukopentextbooks.org>

Contact for further information.

If you would like any further information about the study please contact Dr Vivien Rolfe as follows:

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