



**INFORMED CONSENT FORM**  
Permission for Volunteers to Participate  
In a Research Study

You are invited to participate in a research study investigating the opportunities and challenges experienced in an academic library for students with visual impairments. We need volunteers to participate in the study who are registered with the Disabled Student Services (DSS) office at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and who utilize the services of the Adaptive Technology Center (ATC) located in Room 124 of the James E. Walker Library.

**STUDY TITLE:** Opportunities and Challenges for Visually Impaired Patrons in Academic Libraries

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**Purpose of the study:**

The purpose of this research study is to discover what opportunities and challenges face visually impaired patrons in an academic library setting.

**Procedures to be followed:**

The research will involve taking a survey (paper or online version), independently or with the help of a ATC student worker, participating in an brief interview, and to be observed while performing two (2) database searches using the adaptive technology of your choice.

**Time and duration of the study:**

The study will be conducted over a 2-week period between November 13-26, 2012. We estimate the time required to be 30-45 minutes for the survey and interview, and 15-minutes if you participate in the optional observation test.

**Discomforts or risks**

This study is anonymous and your name will not be collected. There are no known risks associated with this study.

**Benefits of the study:**

You might not receive any direct benefits from participating in the study, but the research will help us understand what is helping you be more successful as a visually impaired library user and what is hindering your progress.

**Compensation:**

There is no compensation for participation in this study except the value of adding to the general body of knowledge of improving user services for visually impaired students in academic libraries.

**Privacy:**

All information that you provide will be kept in strict confidence and there will be no way to trace the information you provide back to your identify so please be honest in your answers.

