User Study of A Virtual Science Fair: Consent Form
Virginia Tech Computer Science Department and Center for Human-Computer Interaction

Study Goals:
This research is being conducted to explore the usefulness, ease of learning and use, and satisfaction experienced by students, teachers, and community members interacting with a Virtual Science Fair (VSF). The VSF is an extension of physical science fairs, in that exhibits can be created and browse online, communication can take place among visitors and exhibitors, judging takes place online, and so on. We will use the results of the study to refine the VSF. **Note:** we are interested in how well the system performs, not how well any individual is able to use it.

Procedures:
You will begin by filling out a brief background survey. Then, after reading some brief instructions you will work through several tasks designed to introduce you to features of the VSF. These instructions will be deliberately brief, in order to see how well the system can support use on its own. After the tasks, you will fill out a user reaction survey, and then will be given an opportunity to ask any questions you have about this study’s goals, procedures, or outcomes.

Throughout your interactions with the VSF, we will be collecting several sorts of information: we will be videotaping your actions with the system, as well as recording what happens on each screen of the VSF. One or more evaluators will be taking notes, measuring task start and stop time, and noting any problems that you encounter. To help us gather as much information about the VSF as possible, we also will be asking you to **think aloud** about your goals, expectations, and reactions to the system as you work. At times we may prompt you to tell us what you are thinking. We realize that providing a think-aloud commentary may be distracting, but it is important for us to know what you are thinking as you carry out the tasks.

Participant Consent:
Your participation in this experiment is entirely voluntary; there will be no remuneration for the time you spend evaluating it. All data gathered from the usability study will be treated in a confidential fashion: it will be archived in a secure location and will be interpreted only for purposes of this evaluation. When your data are reported or described, all identifying information will be removed. There are no known risks to participation in this experiment, and you may withdraw at any point. Please feel free to ask the evaluators if you have any other questions; otherwise, if you are willing to participate, please sign and date this form:

__________________________________________________________________________
Name Date

If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Mary Beth Rosson, 231-6470, rosson@vt.edu