

**Informed Consent**  
**The Last Mile: Linking K-12 Educators with Cyber-enabled Learning Environments**  
**Utah State University**  
**September 2010**

**Introduction/Purpose:**

Dr. Walker in the Department of Instructional Technology at Utah State University is conducting a research study on how teachers and students use online resources from the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) to help improve learning and to investigate how use of online resources and strategies for integrating them into the classroom can benefit teachers as well as students. Your child has been invited to take part because s/he is a member of a potential audience for this software. This study is funded by the National Science Foundation. There will be approximately 40 teachers and up to 1,600 students in this study each year for two years total.

**Procedures:**

If you agree to have your child participate in this study, s/he will be expected to use online learning resources provided as part of regular classroom activities. Your child will also complete up to two surveys that will take 10 minutes each to complete. Findings from the study will be made available on our website: <http://dlconnect.usu.edu>

**Benefits/Risks:**

There may be direct benefit to you from participation in the educational program and its evaluation. It is possible that s/he will become a regular user of the Instructional Architect or resources from the National Science Digital Library. Participating in this research carries minimal risk.

**Voluntary Participation:**

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose to have your child withdrawn from this study at anytime, there will be no penalty and your child's grades or treatment at school will not be affected. If you choose not to participate, information gathered about your student will not be included in any report. If you have questions or research-related problems, you may reach Professor Walker at (435) 797-2614.

**Anonymity:**

Your child will be kept anonymous at all times. Surveys are given as a single packet (both pre- and post-) so that students have no need to identify themselves by name or any other identifier.

**USU Approval:**

The Instructional Review Board for the protection of human subjects at Utah State University has approved this research project. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights you may contact them at (435) 797-1821.

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**Copy of Permission:**

A copy of this permission letter has been provided for your signature. If you agree to have your child participate in this project, please sign the permission page and return to me through your child's teacher. Keep the informed consent pages for your files.

**Investigator Statement:** "I certify that the research study has been explained to the individual by me or the child's teacher, and that the individual understands the nature and purpose, the possible risks and benefits associated with taking part in this research study. Any questions raised have been answered."



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Andrew Walker, Ph.D.  
Principal Investigator  
(435) 797-2614

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**Parent/Guardian Permission:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/legal guardian of the minor (name) \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that the researchers have explained to me the purpose of this research, identified the risks involved, and offered to answer any questions I may have concerning my child's participation. I freely and voluntarily consent to my child's participation in this project. I understand that all information gathered during this project will be completely confidential. By signing below I give permission for my child to participate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Youth Assent:** (for children 7 years of age and older)

I understand that it is okay for me to be part of this study. I also know that if I do not want to do this I do not have to and no one will be mad at me. I can ask questions any time I want and I can stop any time I want to. By signing my name below this means I will be part of this project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date