09. Practicalities of research: IRBs and teamwork

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Today’s class

• IRBs
• Literature review
• Project proposal
• Teamwork
• Team building exercise
IRB process

• Is it research? Are there human subjects?
• Full review vs. expedited vs. exempt
• Fill out and submit protocol
  – Include all study materials (e.g., surveys)
  – Include recruitment text and/or poster
  – Leave plenty of time (submit by Feb 29 or earlier)

http://www.cmu.edu/research-compliance/human-subject-research/guidance-forms.html
Writing a literature review

• What is a literature review?
  – A critical summary of what has been published on a topic
    • What is already known about the topic
    • Strengths and weaknesses of previous studies
  – Often part of the introduction or a section of a research paper, proposal, or thesis

• A literature review should
  – be organized around and related directly to your research question
  – synthesize results into a summary of what is and is not known
  – identify areas of controversy in the literature
  – formulate questions that need further research

Literature review do’s + don’ts

• Don’t create a list of article summaries or quotes
• Do point out what is most relevant about each article to your paper
• Do compare and contrast the articles you review
• Do highlight controversies raised or questions left unanswered by the articles you review
• Do take a look at some examples of literature reviews or related work sections in papers assigned for this class before you try to create one yourself
Project proposal due Feb 17

- ~1 page
- Describe the system you propose to design or evaluate
- Discuss what you hope to learn from your user study and/or the hypotheses you plan to test
- Provide an overview of your preliminary user study plan
  - what types of tasks will you have participants do?
  - what types of people will you recruit?
  - will you use a finished software product, prototype, paper prototype, etc. in your user study?
  - will this be a between-subjects or within-subjects study?
  - will you conduct your study online, in a lab, with paper surveys?
Team work

• What are some effective strategies for working in teams?
Effective teamwork

• Good communication
• Timeline with deadlines
• Regular meetings
• Divide up responsibilities (but help teammates when they need it)
Team building

• You have 30 minutes to work in your teams and produce the following deliverables:
  – A short name for your team
  – A team logo
  – A team slogan
  – A 1-minute advertisement for your project
    • Everyone on your team must say something
    • You may use slides if you like
    • Display your team name, logo, and slogan