

## **Frequently Asked Questions - Sharing Research Tools**

### **What is a research tool?**

*The CERA broadly defines research tools as data collection instruments and other materials used in the production of empirical research. The ELSIhub database includes a diverse set of published and unpublished items relevant to the empirical study of the ethical, legal, and social implications of genetics and genomics including, for example, recruitment flyers, consent form templates, interview guides, psychometric scales, surveys, participant screeners, curricula, educational brochures, videos, and more. While correspondence with the CERA prior to submission is not required, if you would like to confirm that your tool is appropriate for submission to the database, you can email us at [info@elsihub.org](mailto:info@elsihub.org).*

### **What is the purpose of the ELSIhub Research Tools database?**

*This resource was created to support the development of a synergistic and coordinated scholarly community engaged in the study of the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of genetics and genomics across disciplines and national boundaries. We hope it will advance the shared aim of producing a robust evidence base for the ELSI field.*

### **Why share?**

- **Why should I share my published and unpublished research tools?**

*Shared research tools promise the following benefits to ELSI scholars and scholarship:*

- 1) the ability to compare results across studies, populations, institutions, geographies, etc.;*
- 2) the ability to pool data to construct larger sample sizes;*
- 3) enhanced ability to synthesize the published findings of ELSI research;*
- 4) greater methodological transparency and improved study reporting;*
- 5) the more efficient use of research resources, including public money and academic labor*

*Sharing research tools also promises the following benefits to individuals:*

- 1) the ability to see what already exists before developing new instruments;*
- 2) citation by individuals who use your published instruments;*

- 3) *enhanced visibility for your scholarship;*
- 4) *the possibility of having your results confirmed by others.*

- **I am concerned that people will use my work without properly crediting me, alter it, or use it in ways I never intended. What can I do?**

*If you own the copyright to your work, you can grant the public permission to use your work under copyright law by applying one of the 6 [Creative Commons](#) license types (**CC BY**, **CC BY-SA**, **CC BY-NC**, **CC BY-NC-SA**, **CC BY-ND**, or **CC BY-NC-ND**). All of these require that users of the work be attribute it to the creator and you can select a license within a permissive to restrictive range of possible uses. To CC-license your work, choose the license that suits your needs and communicate your choice by adding text and a link to the license to your work, like this: “© 2021. This work is licensed under a [CC BY 4.0 license](#)”.*

- **I am concerned about competition in my research area. Is sharing research tools for me?**

*Yes! It is to your advantage to share published tools in your research area because doing so may result in increased citation of your work. If your tool is unpublished, to address this concern, you might consider publishing your study before sharing the associated tools.*

- **I don't think my research tools have utility beyond the study they were originally created for. Should I still submit them?**

*Yes! Over half of the ELSI scholars we surveyed reported that the ability to modify a research tool was relevant to their decision to use it in their research. This suggests the community is interested in refining or adapting existing tools for their purposes.*

- **How long will the ELSIhub Research Tools database exist?**

*The CERA is funded through May 2024 as a cooperative agreement between the universities that manage ELSIhub and the ELSI Research Program of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). As a condition of our funding, NHGRI requires that all CERA resources be designed as non-proprietary, open source, and easily transferred to other institutions. In short, the ELSIhub Research Tools*

*database will exist as long as the NHGRI funds the CERA and, should that funding end, is set up to be transferred to an archival website.*

### **How do I share?**

- **What is the research tool submission process?**

*Please complete the questionnaire below and email your responses with a PDF version or link to the website that houses the research tool to [info@elsihub.org](mailto:info@elsihub.org).*

- *Title of research tool:*
- *Author(s):*
- *Year created:*
- *Research population:*
- *Does this research tool contain any copyrighted material, e.g., logos, published text, images not in the public domain, etc.? If yes, please explain.*
- *Has this research tool ever been published? If yes, please provide a citation.*
- *Are there any published validations of this research tool (e.g., examination of reliability coefficients, factor or principal components analyses, and/or correlations between scores on the instrument and other variables)?*
- *How would you describe this research tool to another researcher? Please limit your response to 100 words.*

- **I do not own the copyright to my research tool or it contains material for which I do not own the copyright, can I submit it?**

*We may be able to include the tool in the database by linking to the item from its location on a third-party website, but please contact CERA staff to discuss the particulars of your case.*

- **Many study contributors were involved in the production of my research tool. Do I need their permission to submit it?**

*The CERA does not require documentation of these permissions. However, you may decide it is appropriate to ask your coauthors for their permission.*

- **Who can I contact if I have questions?**

*Please contact CERA staff at [info@elsihub.org](mailto:info@elsihub.org).*

## **How can I help?**

- **As an ELSI scholar, is there a way I can help grow the database?**

*Yes! To help promote research tool submission and grow the database, you can:*

- *Submit your research tools and encourage your peers to do the same.*
- *As a grant peer-reviewer, encourage inclusion of the ELSIhub Research Tool repository in the data sharing plans of applicants.*
- *Collaborate with the CERA to present the ELSIhub Research Tools database to your institution or research group.*
- *Tweet the ELSIhub links to your research tools in the database and tag the CERA [@ELSIhub](#).*
- *Sign up to be featured in an article for our newsletter. [Link to example feature](#).*
- *Email the CERA at [info@elsihub.org](mailto:info@elsihub.org) to tell us about instrument repositories with content suitable for ELSIhub.*
- *Email your suggested improvements to the database at [info@elsihub.org](mailto:info@elsihub.org).*