

Informed Consent

I certify that I am at least 18 years of age and I voluntarily agree to participate in the study, “The Freedom Summer Libraries: Civic Empowerment through Literacy,” as indicated by my signature below.

The purpose of this historical research project, conducted by Ms. Karen Cook, doctoral candidate in information studies at the University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences, is to study the libraries created and used as part of the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, better known as “Freedom Summer.” Ms. Cook will base her study upon the examination of historical documents in archival collections, published media accounts, and site visits to the communities in which the libraries were established. She will supplement this data by collecting the oral histories of selected persons who are qualified to speak concerning some aspect(s) of the Summer Project relating to the origins, intended purpose, implementation, operation, use, fate, and impact of the libraries. Ms. Cook will publish the results of this study initially as part of her doctoral dissertation. At some future date, some or all of the study may be incorporated into additional scholarly publications or conference presentations. Such publications, if any, may be in article or book form, in print or electronic format. I understand that copyright in any such publication will belong to Ms. Cook, the University of Alabama, or any subsequent publisher of materials based on this interview.

I will be asked questions concerning my knowledge of and experience with these libraries. I understand that the length of the interview may last from a few minutes up to several hours, dependant upon the extent of my relevant knowledge and recollection and my desire to continue the discussion. I understand that I have the right to refuse to answer any question, or all questions that make me feel uncomfortable. I have the right to terminate the interview at any time. I also understand that I am free to ask any questions I may have concerning the procedures of this study. I understand that the benefits to me for participating are the opportunity to preserve my unique testimony concerning the Mississippi Summer Project libraries and contribute to scholarly awareness and understanding of the role of the libraries in Freedom Summer, an event of great significance in the history of civil rights, adult education, and libraries.

I understand that my responses to some or all questions may be relied upon as background information, paraphrased, and/or included as direct quotations, with attribution provided in the text and/or notes accompanying the text, unless I explicitly stipulate in writing that specific responses, or all responses, be anonymous. If I do request anonymity, that request will be honored in both spirit and letter; any quotation or paraphrase will be attributed to “a volunteer,” “a staff member,” “a local resident,” or even, if necessary, “an anonymous source,” using whatever category of sufficient breadth will guarantee the anonymity of my

response(s). Information I provide will only be identified by name only in files stored securely by Ms. Cook, on her computer, and in her written notes.

I have read this Informed Consent Form and understand the explanation of it provided to me. I am entitled to a copy of this informed consent form. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

Any question that I have at a later point regarding the research can be directed to Ms. Karen Cook (c/o School of Library and Information Studies, 513 Main Library, Box 870252, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0252, email: kcook3@slis.ua.edu; phone: 205/348-4610).

This research is exempt from approval of the Institutional Review Board.

Participant Signature:

Researcher Signature:
