

Policy Regarding Electronic Human Subjects Research Data Collection and Data Storage

Due to changes in security risks and the increased need to protect electronic data collected and retained by affiliates of Mississippi State University for the purposes of human subjects research, all applicable electronic data collection and data storage should take place on University-supported platforms.

The University has provided software for use by MSU personnel. Effective March 1, 2022, all IRB-reviewed studies that include electronic data collection and/or storage will be expected to follow the updated guidance to use these platforms. Each of these provides Two-Factor Authentication to better protect personal information, research data, intellectual property, and institutional information:

- For purposes of online survey data collection, Qualtrics can be used. <https://servicedesk.msstate.edu/TDClient/45/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=1638>
- For purposes of online data storage and security, Office365/OneDrive, or FileLocker may be used. <https://servicedesk.msstate.edu/TDClient/45/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=1521>
<https://servicedesk.msstate.edu/TDClient/45/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=1100>

It is not recommended to use platforms such as GoogleDocs, SurveyMonkey, DropBox, or other cloud storage services that are linked with a personal email account rather than an MSU email account on an MSU-supported platform. MSU cannot be responsible for data stored in personal accounts. All legal requests for access to such electronic information, including requests under public records would be the responsibility of the individual.

If your IRB study is such that utilization of these University-supported platforms is not possible, the researcher must provide a written justification as an attachment in the protocol to be reviewed and evaluated.

Any questions can be directed to the HRPP office at 662-325-5220 or IRB@research.msstate.edu.