



# Guideline: Using BCLA Lists – Research

*Approved by the BCLA Board: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

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## **Introduction**

From time to time BCLA lists are used to recruit research participants by individuals or groups not associated with a post-secondary academic institution. Such research might be as simple as a BCLA Interest Group preparing a survey that seeks to determine the best way to support members, or as complex as an individual wanting to learn more about sexual harassment in libraries. Without being affiliated with an academic institution these research projects and methodologies have not been vetted by a Research Ethics Board or may not have undergone a similar ethical review.

It is important that BCLA list subscribers are aware of the difference between independent research and research conducted under the research and ethical protocols and review process of an academic institution.

## **Purpose**

If the request for research participation is not clear, BCLA list subscribers are encouraged to contact the researcher and ask for more information before agreeing to participate.

BCLA supports research conducted ethically and by sound research practices. Participating in research is an individual decision and BCLA hopes that the above information helps facilitate that decision.

BCLA lists are open and unmonitored and as such requests for research participants are not reviewed or endorsed by BCLA.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to BCLA lists and list subscribers.