



Why this research?

To investigate the motivation and patterns of (non)usage, challenges faced, and potential benefits perceived by academic staff in utilizing Mastodon for professional and academic purposes.

What do we ask of you during the research?

As a participant, we request you to:

Complete an online survey that will take approximately 8-10 minutes. You can return to any question before submitting the survey. You can decide not to answer specific questions if you don't feel comfortable doing so.

Answer questions about your Mastodon usage, motivations for using the platform, and your perceptions of its benefits and challenges in an academic context.

Optionally, share the survey link with your Mastodon followers to help us reach a broader academic audience.

How will we treat your data?

Purpose: The data collected will be used for research purposes only, to analyze patterns of Mastodon usage among academics.

Data processing: We will collect and analyze survey responses, including demographic information and Mastodon usage patterns. The data will be processed by the research team at the University of Groningen Library.

Data protection: All data will be stored securely on storage facilities under contract at the University of Groningen.

We do not collect personally identifiable information unless you voluntarily provide it.

Pseudonymization procedure: There are precautions taken in Qualtrics, so questions will not return personal data. The collected data will not be re-identifiable. All survey answers that could be indirect identifiers will be made untraceable.

Data retention: Anonymized data will be retained for at least 5 years after the completion of the study. Data will be archived at the storage facilities under contract at the University of Groningen.

Data access and withdrawal: As the survey data is unidentifiable we cannot provide individual data access or withdrawal after completion of the survey. All data will be collected even if the survey is not fully completed and/or submitted.

Data sharing: Aggregated, anonymized results may be published in academic journals or presented at conferences. No individual responses will be identifiable.

Reuse: Anonymized data will be made available for reuse on Dataverse.nl

Do you have to participate in this study?



Participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide not to participate, you do not need to explain why, and there will be no negative consequences for you. You have the right to withdraw from this study at any time before starting to fill out the survey.

What else do you need to know?

We encourage you to share any questions or comments you may have about the study. You can ask your questions now, during, or after the study. You can do so by emailing the research team: Josca Westerhof (josca.westerhof@rug.nl); Hannah Niemeier (h.n.niemeier@rug.nl)

Do you have questions/concerns about your rights as a research participant or about the conduct of the research team? In that case, please contact Babette Knauer (PI) (b.knauer@rug.nl)

Do you have questions or concerns regarding the handling of your personal data? You may also contact the University of Groningen's Data Protection Officer: privacy@rug.nl.