

samples, creating and managing e-mail templates, sending e-mails to panelists, and displaying panel statistics [2]. To fulfill our requirements we completed the tool with additional functionalities for user self-services as well as for managing participation history. In Figure 1 the registration form of the current implementation of the online access panel is shown.

4 Conclusion and Outlook

We introduced a collaborative online access panel for supporting evaluations of IIR systems. The panel infrastructure proposed aims at minimizing the recruiting process of participants for web-surveys as well as for lab studies and at building-up an international pool of various types of IIR system users to speed up IIR evaluations in the future. Our next steps are recruiting panelists through announcements on our websites as well as in our IR systems, by telephone calls, mailings and word-of-mouth advertising (according to [1]), evaluating a pilot application of the panel with GESIS users, and finally establishing a consortium of international researchers who are interested in supporting the maintenance as well as the further development of the IIR panel. Given the fact that we are still at the beginning of the developing process there are a lot of open questions that have also to be discussed with the consortium as well, These are for example how to balance participants' workload (send out one invitation per week vs. sending out 10 invitation on a single day), how to control participants' learning effects with IIR systems, how to make study data available for other researchers, how to deal with different legal aspects, how to address language barriers (usually participants are more comfortable in filling in questionnaires in their mother tongue) and so on. By using IIRpanel we expect benefits for major IIR research issues, such as defining and formulation of adequate search tasks and queries, information behavior, needs over time, usability of search interfaces, utility and usability of search histories, evaluation of whole search sessions performing longitudinal studies on the evolution of information needs, but also the benefits and drawbacks of such an online access panel itself can be addressed as a new area in IIR research.

5 References

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